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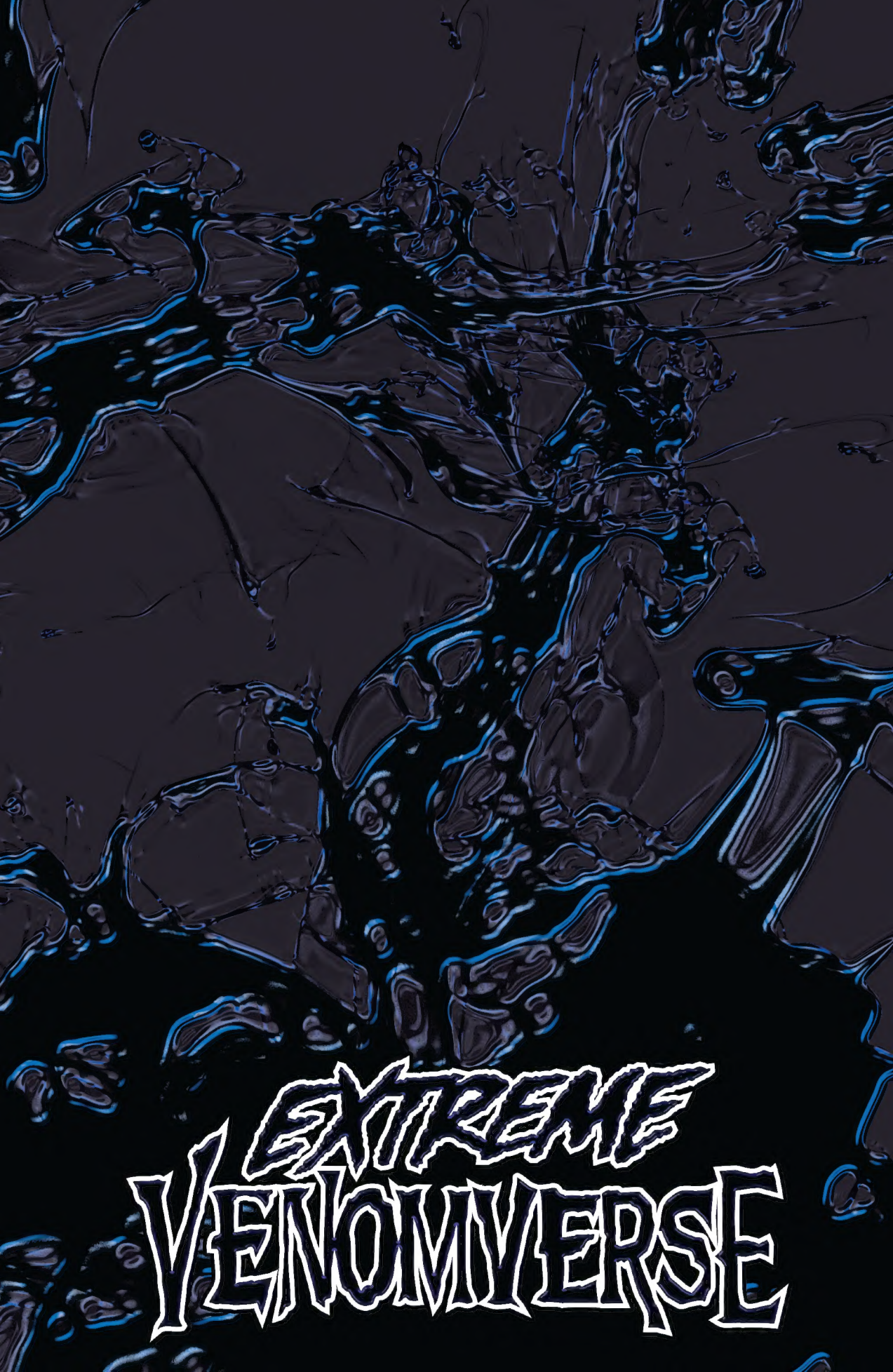
EXTREME VENOMVERSE


EXTREME
VENOMVERSE

EXTREME VENOMVERSE

1

EDDIE BROCK IN "THE BEST PART OF HIM"

RYAN NORTH
WRITER

PAULO SIQUEIRA
PENCILER

JP MAYER
INKER

FEDERICO BLEE
COLOR ARTIST

DYLAN BROCK IN "ALL IN THE FAMILY"

MIRKA ANDOLFO
WRITER

NICO LEON
ARTIST

ERICK ARCINIEGA
COLOR ARTIST

SAMURAI VENOM IN "TIP OF THE BLADE"

LEONARDO ROMERO
WRITER & PENCILER

ROBERTO POGGI
INKER

RUTH REDMOND
COLOR ARTIST

VC's JOE SABINO
LETTERER

PAGES FROM *WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #1 (1985)* BY LOUISE SIMONSON, GREG LaROCQUE, JIM MOONEY, GEORGE ROUSSOS AND JANICE CHIANG

2

FELICIA HARDY IN "THE SINISTER SECRET OF BLACK CAT'S NEW COSTUME!"

AL EWING
WRITER

VINCENZO CARRATÙ
ARTIST

FEDERICO BLEE
COLOR ARTIST

LIFE-MODEL VENOM IN "THE PRISONER"

DAVID PEPOSE
WRITER

KEN LASHLEY
ARTIST

CECI DE LA CRUZ
COLOR ARTIST

HIERONYMUS SKELTON, THE VENOM OF 1602 IN "MASQUE OF RED DEATH"

CLAY McLEOD CHAPMAN
WRITER

PAUL DAVIDSON
ARTIST

ALEX GUIMARÃES
COLOR ARTIST

VC's JOE SABINO
LETTERER

3

BLACK FANG IN "GREATNESS & CATASTROPHE"

JED MacKAY
WRITER

DANIEL ERALS
ARTIST

ALEX GUIMARÃES
COLOR ARTIST

MADAME BROCK IN "BEST LITTLE HORROR HOUSE"

TARAN KILLAM
WRITER

ROD REIS
ARTIST

VENOM: SPACEKNIGHT IN "WET WORKS"

CLAY McLEOD CHAPMAN
WRITER

NELSON DANIEL
ARTIST

ANTONIO FABELA
COLOR ARTIST

VC's JOE SABINO
LETTERER

4

VENOM BLOOM IN "BLOOM OF DOOM"

BY PEACH MOMOKO

VENOM NOIR IN "THE TEETH OF BEASTS"

D.J. BRYANT
WRITER

ÁLVARO LÓPEZ
ARTIST

ALEX GUIMARÃES
COLOR ARTIST

VC's JOE SABINO
LETTERER

NECROKO IN "SPARKLE AND SHINE"

ALYSSA WONG
WRITER

KEN NIIMURA
ARTIST & LETTERER

5

JEFF THE LAND SHARK IN "THE RHYTHM OF THE NIGHT"

KELLY THOMSON
WRITER

GURIHIRU
ARTIST

MAJOR LEAGUE VENOM IN "FIELD OF SCREAMS"

JORDAN BLUM
WRITER

BRIAN CROSBY
PENCILER

SCOTT HANNA
INKER

CHRIS SOTOMAYOR
COLOR ARTIST

KING-PAIN IN "SPIDER'S ECLIPSE"

JASON LOO
WRITER

GAVIN GUIDRY
ARTIST

KJ DÍAZ
COLOR ARTIST

MOBILE WALKER V.E.N.O.M. IN "FULL SYMBIOTE PANIC"

CODY ZIGLAR
WRITER

JIM TOWE
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DEE CUNNIFFE
COLOR ARTIST

VC's JOE SABINO
LETTERER

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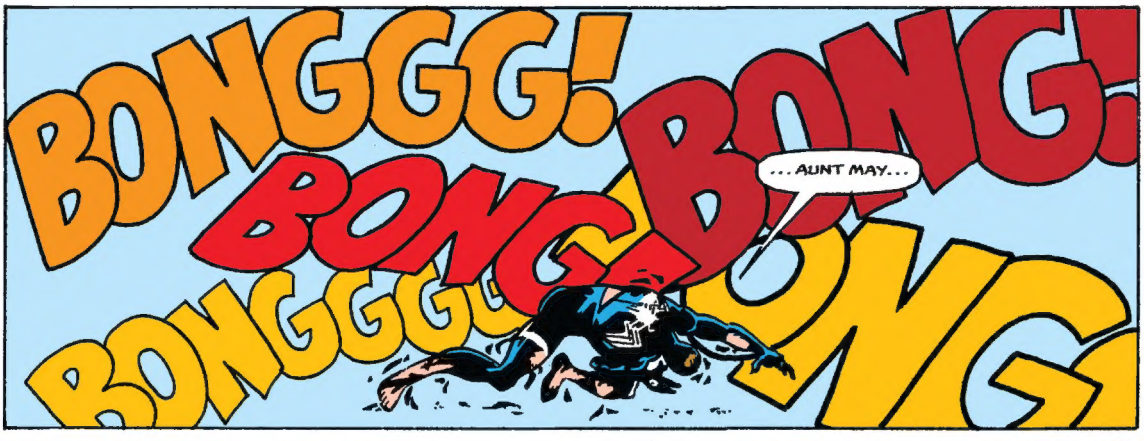
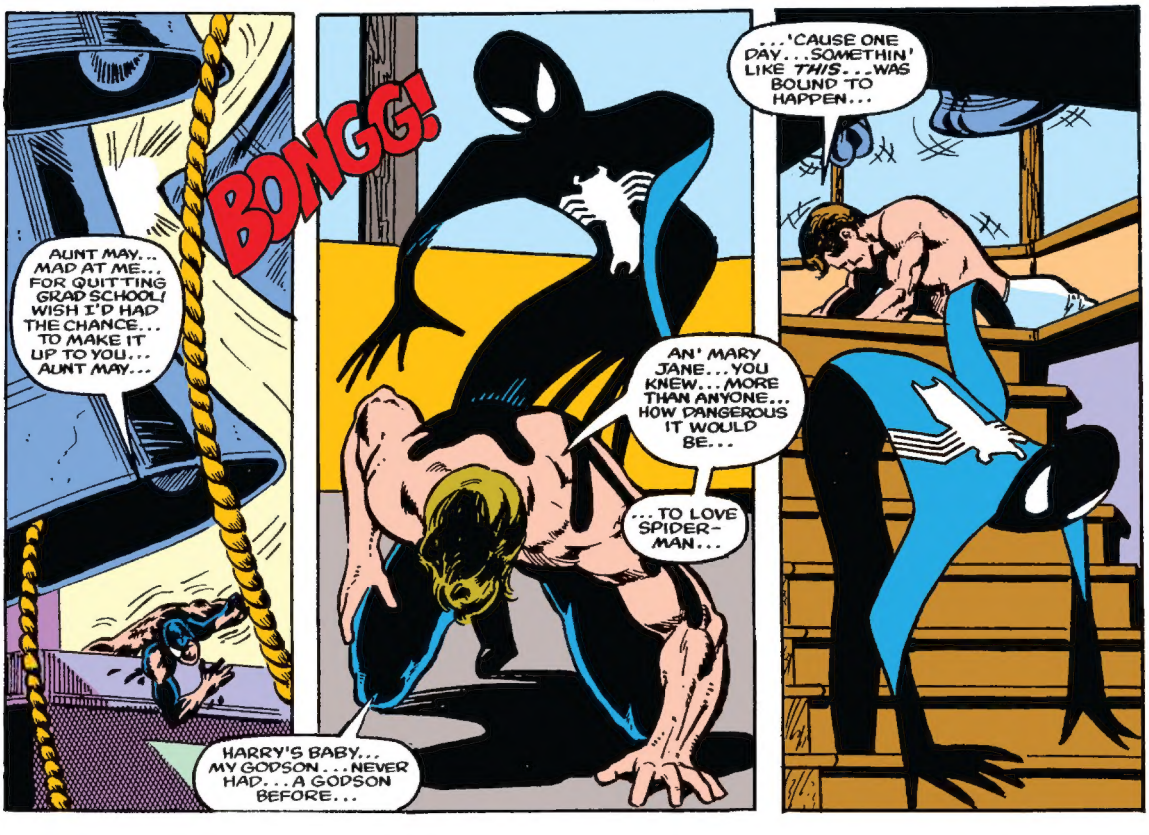
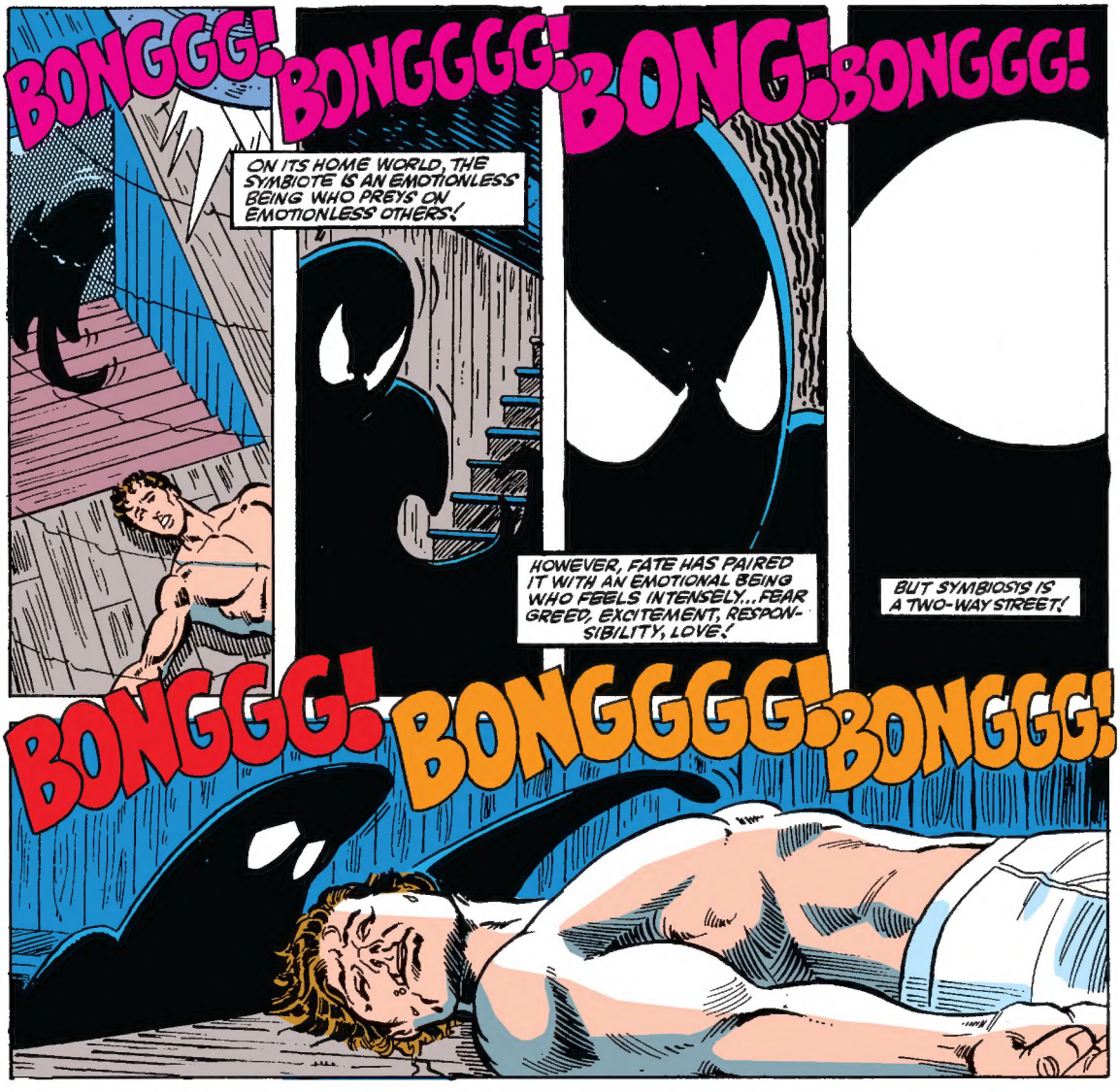
1

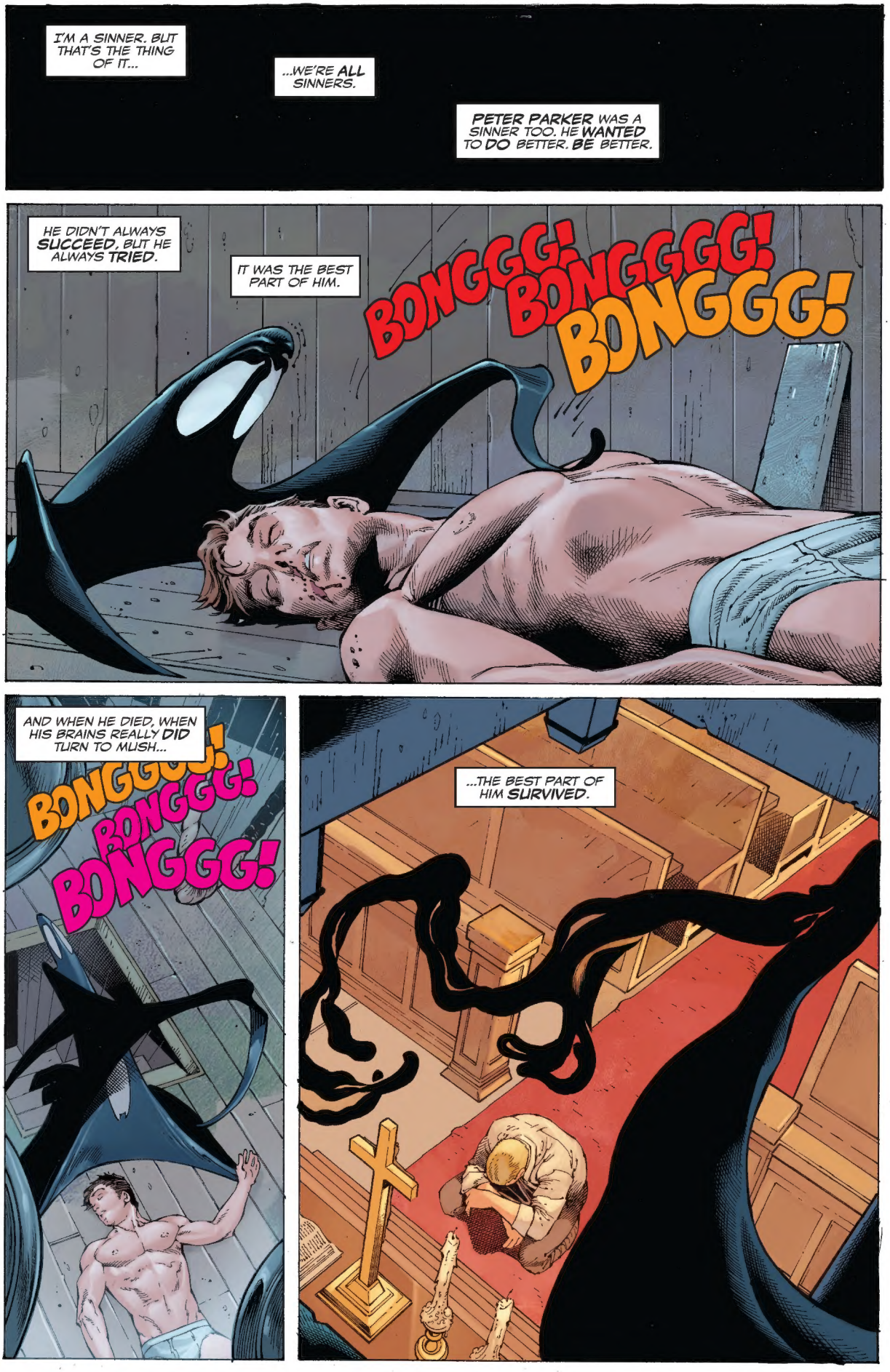
SOUND! THAT'S THE ANSWER, ISN'T IT?
THESE BELLS MAY TURN MY BRAINS TO JELL-O, BUT IT SURE AS HECK'S GONNA GET YOU, PAL!
BONGGG!
BONGGGG!
DON'T YOU SEE? I COULDN'T STAND BEING A PUPPET! I'D RATHER DIE!
AND WHAT GOOD WOULD I BE TO YOU THEN?!
BONGGG!
BONGG!
MIGHT... AS WELL JUST LEAVE... GO BEFORE...
...I LOSE MY SENSE OF HUMOR ABOUT THIS...

BONGGG!BONG
ONGGG
FUNNY...
...CAN'T HELP THINKING ABOUT...


BONGGG!
BONG
BONGGG
BONG!
...AUNT MAY...


AUNT MAY... MAD AT ME... FOR QUITTING GRAD SCHOOL! WISH I'D HAD THE CHANCE... TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU... AUNT MAY...
BONGG!
HARRY'S BABY... MY GODSON... NEVER HAD... A GODSON BEFORE...
AN' MARY JANE... YOU KNEW... MORE THAN ANYONE... HOW DANGEROUS IT WOULD BE...
...TO LOVE SPIDER-MAN...
...'CAUSE ONE DAY... SOMETHIN' LIKE *THIS*... WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN...


BONGGG!
BONGGGG!
BONG!
BONGGG!
ON ITS HOME WORLD, THE SYMBIOTE IS AN EMOTIONLESS BEING WHO PREYS ON EMOTIONLESS OTHERS!
HOWEVER, FATE HAS PAIRED IT WITH AN EMOTIONAL BEING WHO FEELS INTENSELY...FEAR GREED, EXCITEMENT, RESPONSIBILITY, LOVE!
BUT SYMBIOSIS IS A TWO-WAY STREET!
BONGGG!
BONGGGG!
BONGGG!

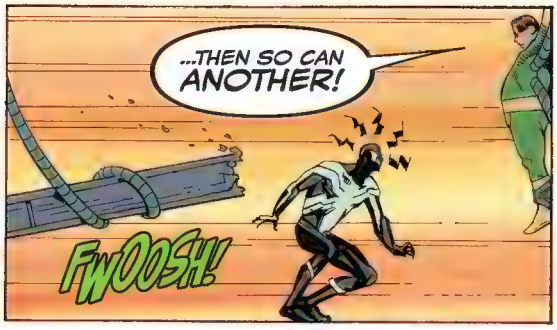

I'M A SINNER. BUT THAT'S THE THING OF IT...
...WE'RE ALL SINNERS.
PETER PARKER WAS A SINNER TOO. HE WANTED TO DO BETTER. BE BETTER.
HE DIDN'T ALWAYS SUCCEED, BUT HE ALWAYS TRIED.
IT WAS THE BEST PART OF HIM.
BONGGG! BONGGGG! BONGGG!
AND WHEN HE DIED, WHEN HIS BRAINS REALLY DID TURN TO MUSH...
BONGGG! BONGGG! BONGGG!
...THE BEST PART OF HIM SURVIVED.

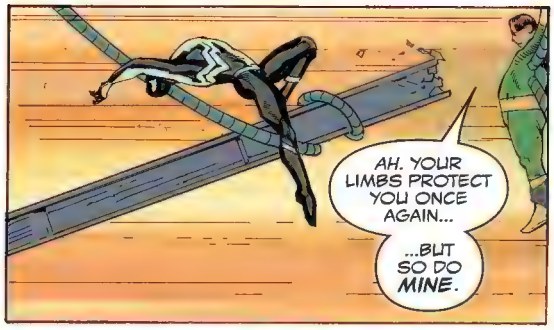
PARKER HAD TRIED TO ABANDON IT. THE SYMBIOTE HAD THOUGHT IT COULD FORCE HIM BACK.
AND ONLY WHEN IT WAS TOO LATE DID IT REALIZE WHAT A HORRIBLE, IRREVERSIBLE MISTAKE IT HAD MADE.
PARKER ALWAYS HAD UNCLE BEN-- HIS GREATEST MISTAKE, HIS DEFINING FAILURE, THE ONE THING HE'D SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE TRYING DESPERATELY TO MAKE UP FOR.
AND NOW THE SYMBIOTE HAD PARKER.
WH--?!
THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN ITS WORLD, THE MOST INTIMATE AND IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP IT HAD EVER HAD...
NO! NO!
...NOW GONE FOREVER BECAUSE OF ONE SMALL, SELFISH CHOICE MADE IN A MOMENT OF WEAKNESS.
THE SYMBIOTE HAD GIVEN PARKER SO MUCH POWER-- BUT SYMBIOSIS IS A TWO-WAY STREET.
WITHOUT EITHER OF THEM NOTICING, HE'D GIVEN IT HIS GUILT. HIS SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.
N---
I, OF COURSE, KNEW NONE OF THIS.
I, OF COURSE, ONLY WANTED TO DIE.

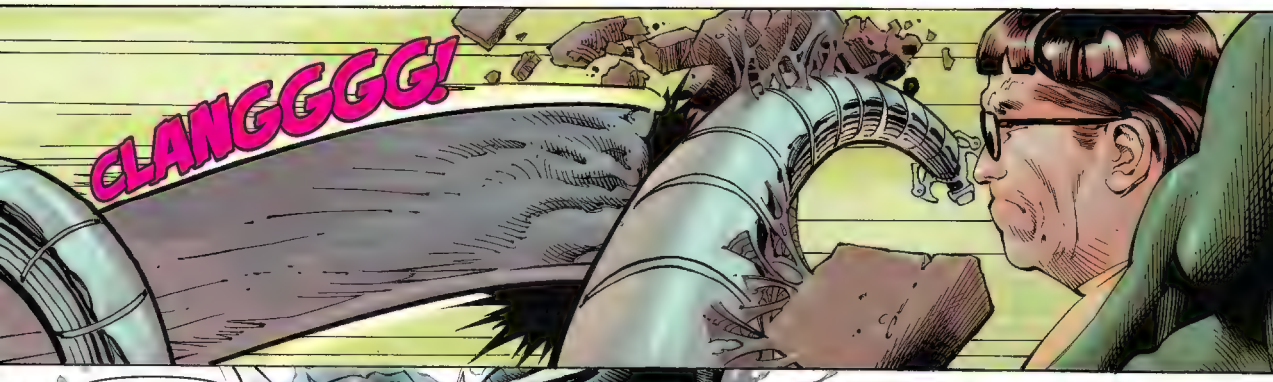
I THINK THAT'S WHY THE SYMBIOTE AND I BONDED SO EASILY. IN THAT MOMENT, WE WERE BOTH SEEKING FORGIVENESS. IT FOR THE ACT IT HAD JUST COMMITTED, AND ME FOR THE ACT I WAS ABOUT TO COMMIT.
HELP! HELP, SOMEONE, PLEASE!
THE SYMBIOTE--INFLUENCES ME. I CAN'T STOP IT. OUR THOUGHTS BLEND, ALL THE TIME.
IT'S ALWAYS STRIVING TO SAVE PEOPLE. TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT IT DID.
THE SYMBIOTE MAKES ME WANT IT: TO BE THE HERO.
TO SAVE EVERYONE.

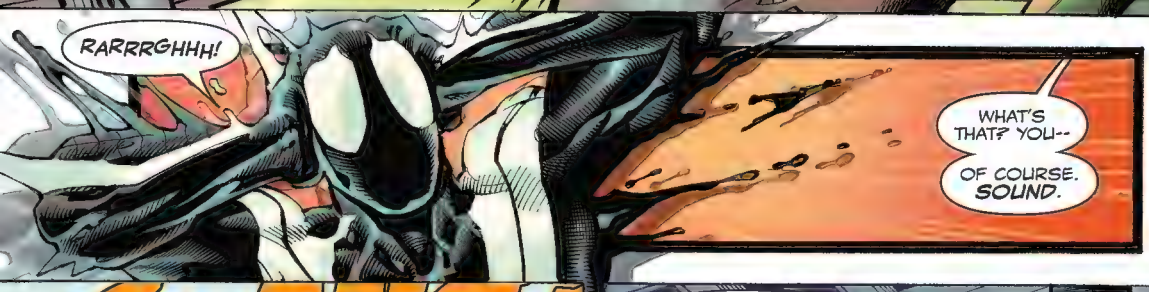
BUT I KNOW MY SOUL IS STILL DAMNED.
OTTO! DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO LEAVE NEW YORK LAST TIME WE MET?
BECAUSE THE BEST PARTS OF ME--THAT KINDNESS, THAT SENSE OF JUSTICE AND DUTY--AREN'T EVEN MINE.
NONE OF THIS IS ME.
YOU KNOW, I DO EXPRESSLY REMEMBER TELLING YOU TO LEAVE.
THWIP
IT'S JUST THE ECHO OF A MAN LONG DEAD...
KRASHHHH
...CARRIED BY A DESPERATE ALIEN WHOSE TENDRILS WRAP DEEP AROUND MY BRAIN STEM.

GO GET 'IM, SPIDEY!
YOU GOT IT, KID.
SMAK
GRAH!
SPIDER-MAN! INSTEAD OF INTERRUPTING MY PLANS, SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME PRECISELY HOW YOUR PREDECESSOR DIED, HUH?
I'D LOVE A FEW POINTERS TO RID THIS CITY OF ITS SPIDER PROBLEM ONCE AND FOR ALL.
YOU KNOW, YOU AND I WOULDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM IF YOU DIDN'T HARM INNOCENTS.
THWIP
THWIP
THWIP
THWIP
THAT JUST GETS UNDER MY SKIN, Y'KNOW?
THAT SELF-RIGHTEOUS TONE IS DEFINITELY COMMON TO YOU BOTH. YOU'RE JUST SO MUCH BETTER THAN THE REST OF US, AREN'T YOU?
BUT IF ONE SPIDER-MAN CAN DIE...
KRRK


...THEN SO CAN ANOTHER!
FWOOSH!


AH. YOUR LIMBS PROTECT YOU ONCE AGAIN...
...BUT SO DO MINE.

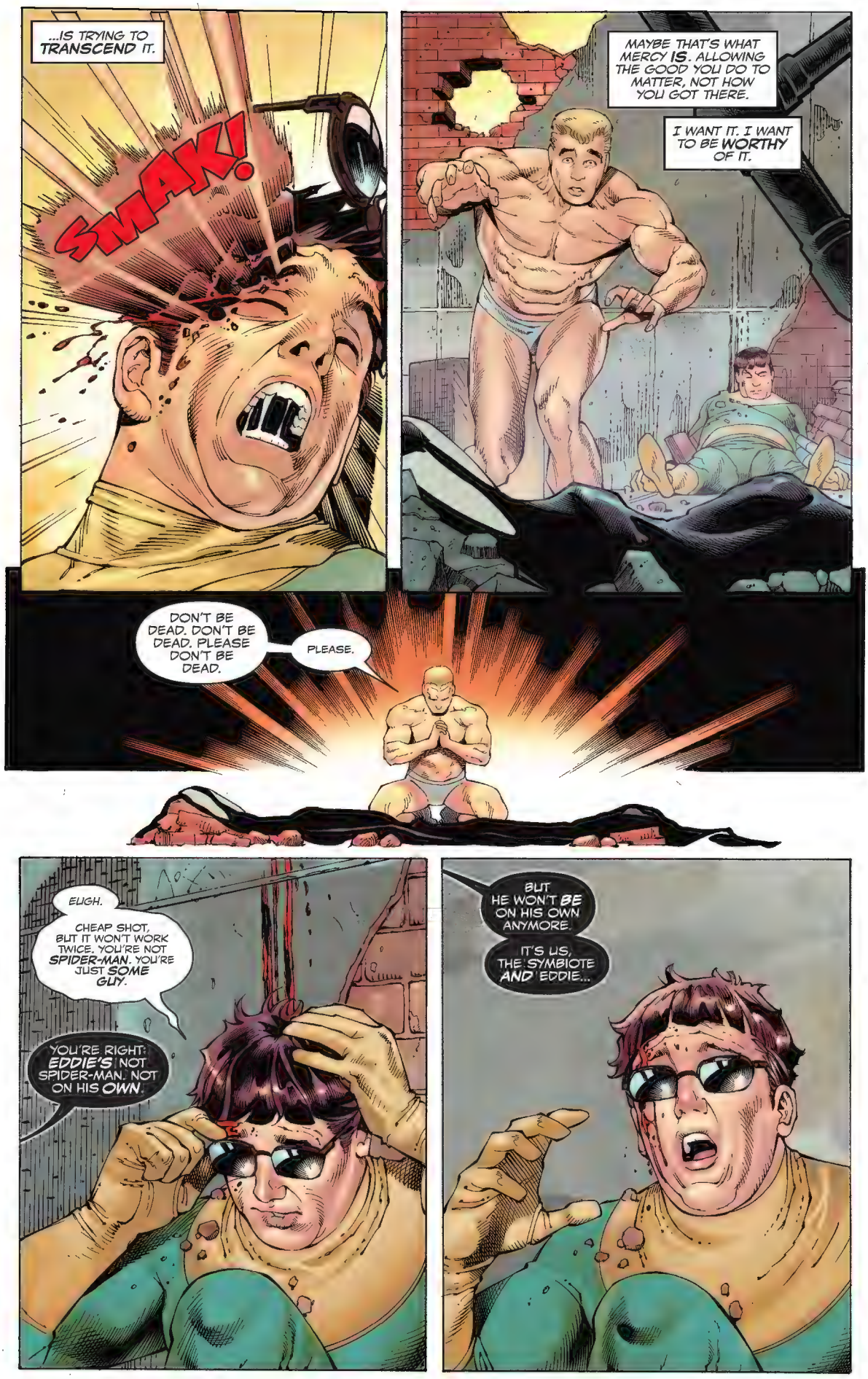

CLANGGGG!


RARRRGHHH!
WHAT'S THAT? YOU--
OF COURSE. SOUND.

CLANG!
HOW PERFECTLY MUNDANE.
YOU'RE VULNERABLE TO SOUND.
CLANGGGG! CLANG! CLANGGGG!

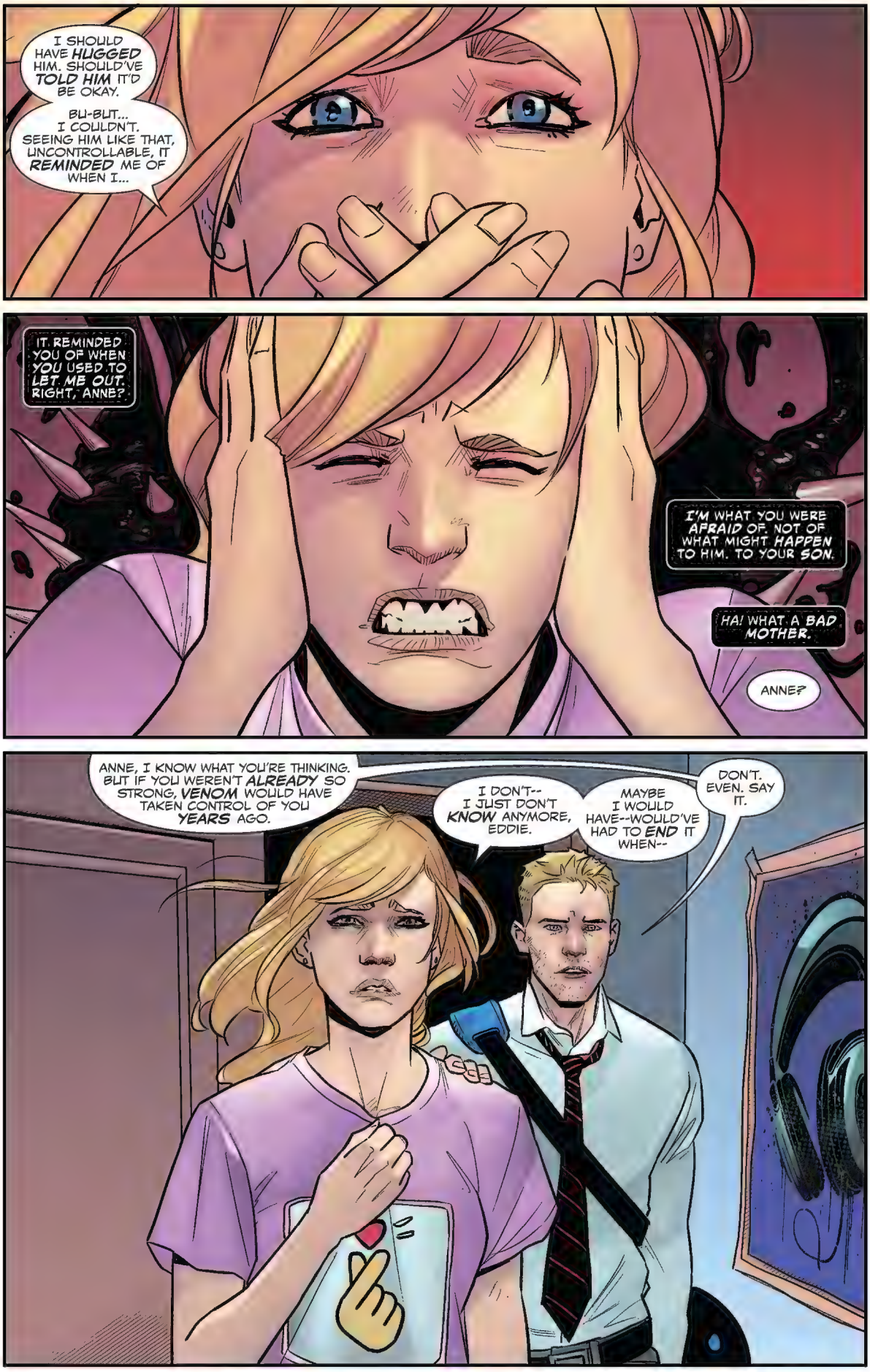
THE ORIGINAL SPIDER-MAN, HIS POWERS WERE INNATE. BUT WITHOUT THIS SUIT-- THE SOURCE OF YOUR POWER--
--YOU'RE JUST AN ORDINARY MAN, AREN'T YOU?
CLANGGGG! CLANG! CLANGGGG!

CLANGGGG! CLANG! CLANGGGG!
THIS GOO-- IT'S A FASCINATING PIECE OF TECHNOLOGY. A LESSER MAN WOULD BE TEMPTED TO TAKE IT FOR HIMSELF.
BUT WHEN ONE'S ALREADY CONSTRUCTED THE PERFECT BODY...
...IT CAN BE MUCH MORE PROFITABLE TO SIMPLY DESTROY THE COMPETITION.
CLANGGGG! CLANG! CLANGGGG!
FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE SYMBIOTE TOOK ME, I'M SUDDENLY ALONE IN MY OWN HEAD.
CLANGGGG!
MY THOUGHTS ARE FINALLY MY OWN.
AND ALL I CAN THINK IS...
CLANGGGG! CLANG! CLANGGGG!
$#%&@ THIS GUY.
CLANGGGG! CLANG! CLANGGGG!
THE DIFFERENCE IS-- THIS IS MY CHOICE NOW.
I WANT THIS.
KRCCK
CLANG! CLANG! CLANGGGG!
I'VE KILLED. I'VE WALLOWED IN AVARICE. I'VE DONE HORRIBLE THINGS TO GOOD PEOPLE. BUT I DON'T WANT TO DIE ANYMORE.
I WANT TO DO BETTER.
I'M READY TO BE REBORN.
CLANGGGG! CLANG! CLANGGGG!
I FIGURE IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THE BEST PARTS OF YOU COME FROM ELSEWHERE, AS LONG AS YOU CHOOSE THEM FOR YOURSELF.
WE'RE ALL BORN SINNERS. WHAT MATTERS...


...IS TRYING TO TRANSCEND IT.
SMAK!
MAYBE THAT'S WHAT MERCY IS. ALLOWING THE GOOD YOU DO TO MATTER, NOT HOW YOU GOT THERE.
I WANT IT. I WANT TO BE WORTHY OF IT.
DON'T BE DEAD. DON'T BE DEAD. PLEASE DON'T BE DEAD.
PLEASE.
ELIGH.
CHEAP SHOT, BUT IT WON'T WORK TWICE. YOU'RE NOT SPIDER-MAN. YOU'RE JUST SOME GUY.
YOU'RE RIGHT: EDDIE'S NOT SPIDER-MAN. NOT ON HIS OWN.
BUT HE WON'T BE ON HIS OWN ANYMORE.
IT'S US, THE SYMBIOTE AND EDDIE...

...WE'RE SPIDER-MAN.
SMAKKKK!

OF COURSE, YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.
JUST WHEN OUR BONDING WAS AT ITS STRONGEST, IRREVERSIBLE. JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I HAD EVERYTHING FINALLY FIGURED OUT...
EDDIE BROCK.
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
ANNE?!
...YOU SHOWED UP, AND OUR WHOLE UNIVERSE CHANGED.
TO BE CONTINUED IN DEATH OF THE VENOMVERSE!


I SHOULD HAVE HUGGED HIM. SHOULD'VE TOLD HIM IT'D BE OKAY.
BU-BUT... I COULDN'T. SEEING HIM LIKE THAT, UNCONTROLLABLE, IT REMINDED ME OF WHEN I...
IT REMINDED YOU OF WHEN YOU USED TO LET ME OUT. RIGHT, ANNE?
I'M WHAT YOU WERE AFRAID OF. NOT OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO HIM. TO YOUR SON.
HA! WHAT A BAD MOTHER.
ANNE?
ANNE, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. BUT IF YOU WEREN'T ALREADY SO STRONG, VENOM WOULD HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF YOU YEARS AGO.
I DON'T-- I JUST DON'T KNOW ANYMORE, EDDIE.
MAYBE I WOULD HAVE--WOULD'VE HAD TO END IT WHEN--
DON'T. EVEN. SAY IT.

I'LL HAVE DYLAN BACK IN TIME FOR BREAKFAST.
NO...WE NEED TO BRING HIM BACK.
TOGETHER.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, EDDIE. I'VE KEPT THE SYMBIOTE CONTAINED FOR SO LONG, IT FEELS LIKE IT'S A PART OF ME.
AND TODAY, I SAW...

"...I THINK IT'S PART OF DYLAN TOO."
GASP!
WHERE AM I?
AND WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
YOU DON'T REMEMBER? I FOUND YOU IN THE STREET, FREAKING OUT. GUESS YOU HIT YOUR HEAD EVEN HARDER THAN I THOUGHT.
I'M LIA, BY THE WAY.
AND YOU'RE A GUEST IN MY HOUSE. COULDN'T LEAVE YOU OUT IN THE COLD IN THAT..."OUTFIT."
YOU'RE WELCOME.
YOU CALL THIS A HOUSE?
YEAH, WELL... I ONLY FOUND THE PLACE A WEEK AGO. BARELY BURNED.
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.
RIGHT. SURE. WELL, LOOK. THANKS FOR TAKING ME IN, BUT I'D BETTER GET MOVING.
YOU RAN AWAY FROM HOME, DIDN'T YOU?
I RAN AWAY FROM AN ORPHANAGE. I SAY WE TEAM UP.
NO, THANKS. JUST STAY AWAY FROM ME. AND SERIOUSLY, THANKS FOR THE FILTHY MATTRESS.
WHY'D YOU RUN AWAY? BECAUSE MOMMY AND DADDY WOULDN'T BUY YOU A NEW TOY? DID YOU CRY ABOUT IT?!
STOP MAKING FUN OF US!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!

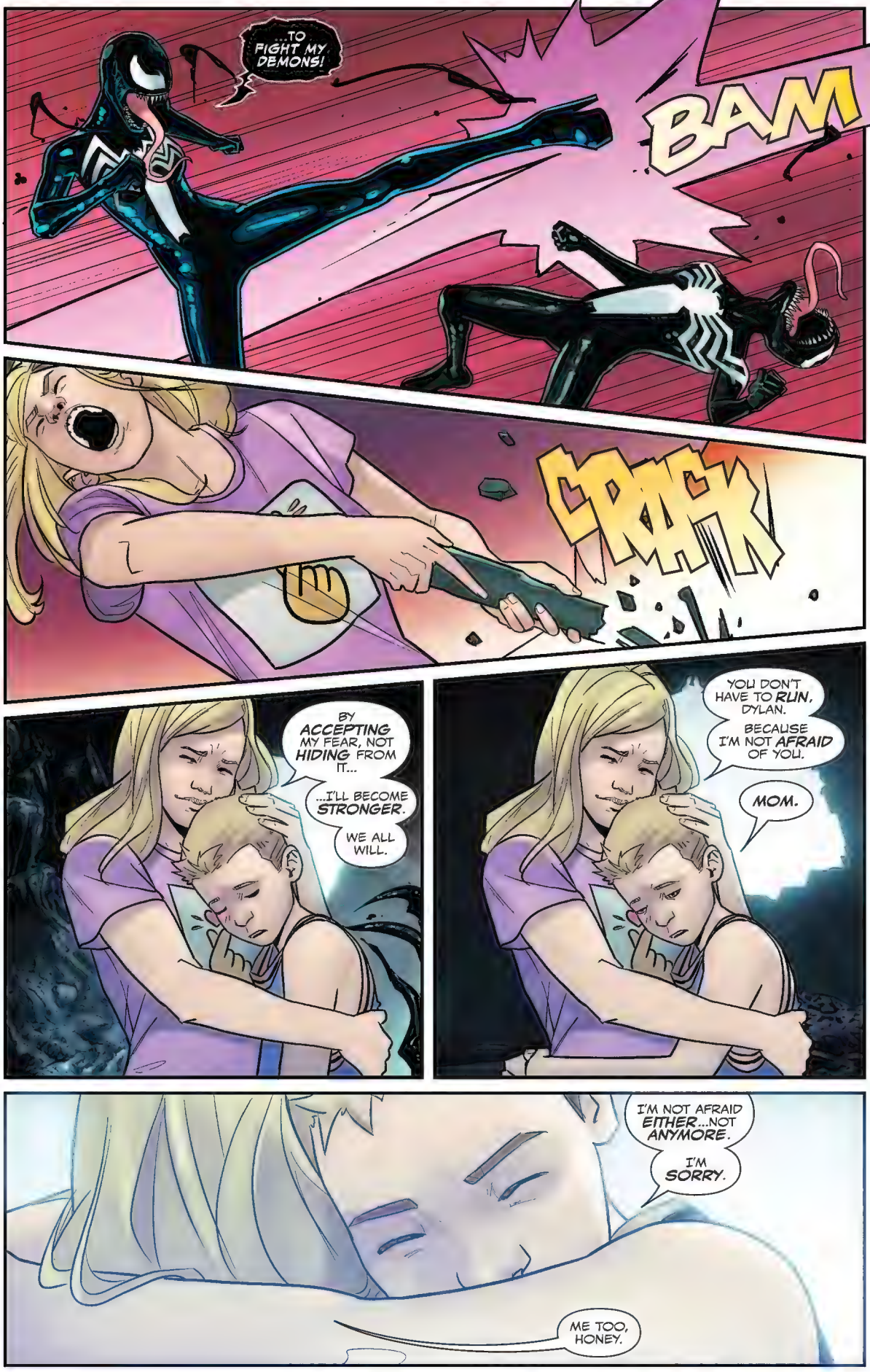
AHHHH!
I TAKE IT BACK! PLEASE! DON'T HURT ME!
WE WON'T! WE'LL DEVOUR YOU WHOLE...
...SO YOU WON'T FEEL A THING!

V-VENOM!
N-NO! I WON'T L-LET YOU!
YOU THINK YOU COULD EVER HOPE TO STOP ME? WHAT ABOUT WITH OUR MOTHER--DID YOU STOP ME THEN?!
YOU STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT YET, DYLAN.
I'M A PART OF YOU AND WANT OUR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE.
BUT YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS IS STILL SO YOUNG. AND SO VERY WEAK.
I DON'T NEED THE TINY GRAIN OF AWARENESS THAT YOU POSSESS. I COULD DEPRIVE MYSELF OF IT AND KEEP ONLY WHAT I NEED OF YOU.
THEN YOU'D BE DONE BABYSITTING...
...AND I'D FINALLY BE ABLE TO EAT HOW AND WHO I WANT.
I GUESS WHAT THEY SAY IS TRUE:

PUBERTY'S HELL ON BOYS.
YOU THINK YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP JUST BECAUSE YOU SPROUTED SOME CLAWS?
WHAM
LET'S GET YOU OUT OF HERE.
LADY, WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
I'M ANNE.
I GUESS YOU'VE MET MY SON.
SHOULD HAVE SEEN YOU COMING, DAD.
JUST LIKE YOU TO TAKE A CHEAP SHOT!

C'MON, POP! LET'S PLAY CATCH!
PLEASE, DYLAN! STOP!
WE'VE GOT TO LEAVE, LADY!
YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING AGAINST THOSE--THOSE THINGS!
THE GIRL IS WRONG, ANNE. YOU KNOW IT.
RELEASE ME AND YOU'LL SEE. WE CAN SAVE EVERYONE.
SAVE DYLAN.
WE COULD TEACH THAT SPOILED BOY A LESSON!
NO, IT'S NOT DYLAN'S FAULT! IT'S MINE!
LADY, ARE YOU TALKING TO ME?!
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE BONDED TO YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE. AND WHEN WE KNEW WE WERE GOING TO HAVE DYLAN, I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THIS COMING. SHOULD HAVE PREPARED HIM...
YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M NOT A GOOD MOTHER!
BECAUSE I'M CONSTANTLY TERRIFIED THAT HE'LL END UP EXACTLY LIKE ME!
I'M TERRIFIED OF MY SON!
AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
I'M NOT SURE I FOLLOW, MA'AM. TRUST ME, PLENTY OF OTHER MOTHERS WOULD'VE RAN FOR THEIR LIVES IN YOUR SHOES.

YOUR SON IS A DAMN MONSTER! THERE'D BE NOTHING WRONG WITH RUNNING AWAY, HONESTLY!
BUT YOU'RE STILL HERE, WORRYING ABOUT HIM INSTEAD OF YOURSELF! YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S SMART?!
COMPARED TO THE PEOPLE WHO ABANDON THEIR PERFECTLY HUMAN, COMPLETELY NOT-MONSTROUS CHILDREN, YOU'D STILL BE MOTHER OF THE YEAR!
SO LOOK AT YOURSELF! FIND SOME SELF-ESTEEM AND GET OFF YOUR ASS...OR YOU'LL PROBABLY DIE!
I...
YOU'RE RIGHT. I AM STILL HERE.
EVEN IF I'M TERRIFIED.
I'M HORRIFIED THAT VENOM COULD TAKE OVER AT ANY TIME...
...BUT I'M STILL HERE.
AND FOR YOU, DYLAN...
...I ALWAYS WILL BE!
THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME STRONGER THAN VENOM.
SOME THINGS SCARE ME EVEN MORE THAN THE SYMBIOTE AND MY PAST.
LOSING YOU.
LOSING YOUR FATHER.
LOSING OUR FAMILY BECAUSE I'M TOO AFRAID...


...TO FIGHT MY DEMONS!
BAM
CRACK
BY ACCEPTING MY FEAR, NOT HIDING FROM IT...
...I'LL BECOME STRONGER.
WE ALL WILL.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN, DYLAN.
BECAUSE I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU.
MOM.
I'M NOT AFRAID EITHER...NOT ANYMORE.
I'M SORRY.
ME TOO, HONEY.

"LET'S GO HOME."
HEY, IT'S THE BROCK FAMILY!
HEY, IT'S LIA!
--AND THEN DAD SAID, "NOT A CHANCE, CHANCE!" AND BAM!
NO VENOM AT THE TABLE, KIDDO.
FROM NOW ON, WE'LL TRAIN TO HELP YOU MASTER YOUR POWERS TO THE ABSOLUTE FULLEST.
WHAT IF... WHAT IF I CAN'T?
IF YOU'RE AFRAID TO TRY, THEN YOU'LL NEVER KNOW.
AND WHAT IF I SUCCEED? WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO THEN?
THEN WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT...
...TOGETHER.

I REMEMBER WHEN WE WENT DOWN LOOKING FOR A STRANGE SIGNATURE UNDERGROUND.
I REMEMBER WHEN THE RELIC LIQUEFIED AND COVERED MY BODY.
AND WHEN THE SOLDIERS TOOK AIM AT ME...
...I REMEMBER THE RAGE...AND THE BLOOD.
I'M THANKFUL WHEN I REALIZE I'M ONLY ASLEEP.
TAKEMOTO!!! WAKE UP!
YOU'RE NOT HERE ON VACATION. LOOK!
ARE WE IN TROUBLE, MARION?
CROSSING FROM ONE DISTRICT TO ANOTHER ISN'T EXACTLY LEGAL, AND THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW ROUTES THE GOVERNMENT HASN'T TAKEN DOWN YET.
BUT THEY ARE WATCHING US.
DO YOU THINK IT'S A DRONE?
IF IT'S A DRONE...
...WE TAKE IT DOWN.
IF IT'S SOMETHING ELSE... WELL.
THAT'S UP TO YOU.
BUT IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING.

GLAD WE'RE GETTING OUT OF THIS PLACE. I JUST WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE I CAN REALLY FEEL SAFE.
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT. I'VE BEEN TO SOME OF THE OTHER CITIES THAT WEREN'T COMPLETELY DESTROYED AND THOSE WHO LIVE THERE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING TO FIND THAT SAFE PLACE.
SO WHERE ARE YOU TAKING THE PEOPLE WITH US?
"TO FOOD, WORK... WHATEVER I CAN FIND FOR THEM. THEY AREN'T WARRIORS. THEY'RE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT FOR THE PROMISED LAND.
"THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO DREAM OF IT...
"BUT YOU?"
I'VE SEEN WHAT YOU CAN DO.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT... I...I CAN'T CONTROL THIS.
SO LET'S HOPE YOU DON'T NEED TO.
LET'S HOPE IT'S A DRONE.
HEY, MARION. YOU BETTER GET OVER HERE...
--THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE.
I SAW. I'LL MEET YOU IN THE PASSENGER CAR.

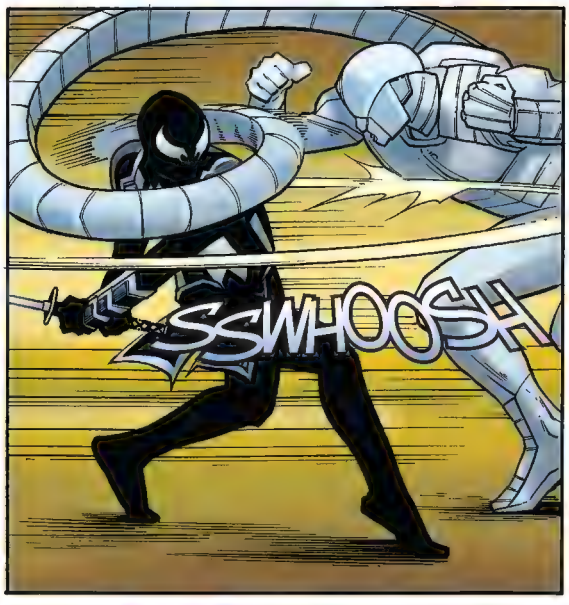
TRACKER IS GOING OFF THE CHARTS. WE FOUND THEM, CONTROL. PERMISSION TO USE FORCE WHEN INTERROGATING.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE GOING TO WAIT FOR THEM TO GIVE PERMISSION THOUGH, RIGHT?
UGH!
IT'S A NICE UNDERCOVER OPERATION YOU GUYS HAVE HERE. BUT RUNNING AWAY WITH GOVERNMENT PROPERTY PUTS A GIANT TARGET ON YOUR BACK.
WHAT?! THERE ARE ONLY FAMILIES HERE--
NOT ONLY.
BLAM
TAKEMOTO TATSUYA...HE IS NOT AMONG THESE PASSENGERS.
SO I'M GOING TO DEDUCE THAT THE COWARD HANDED ONE OF YOU THE PACKAGE AND TOOK OFF.

TURN HIM OVER NOW, AND WE'LL TAKE YOU GUYS BACK TO THE DISTRICT, JUST TO TALK.
BUT BEWARE THAT THIS PROPOSAL EXPIRES QUICKLY.
IN THE F-FREIGHT CAR, THE BAG IS IN THE BACK.
FWIP
QUICK ANSWER. BUT LET'S SEE IF IT'S THE RIGHT ANSWER.
FWOOP
UNGH! WHAT A BREAKTHROUGH! YOU'VE FINALLY STOPPED RUNNING AWAY AND STARTED HIDING IN A CARGO COMPARTMENT.
THAT'S A BIG LEAP FOR A COWARD LIKE YOU!

I'M NOT GOING TO LIE...

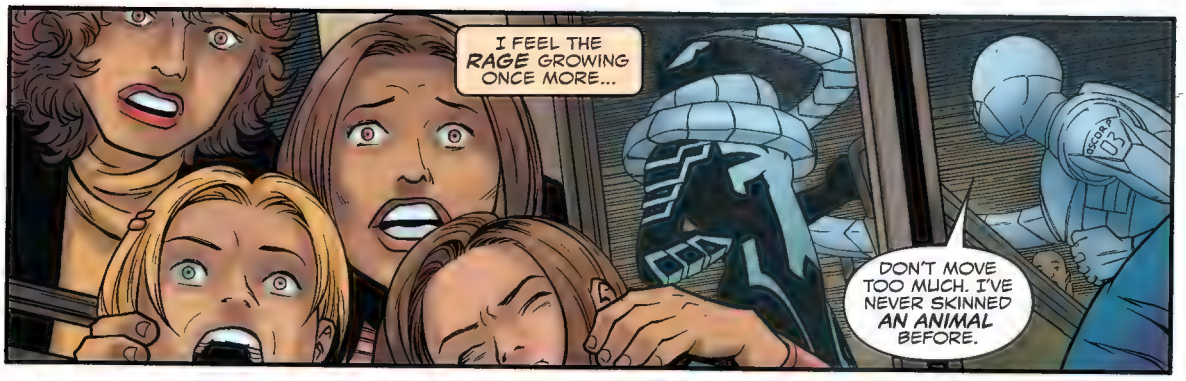
THWIK
THWIK
THWIK

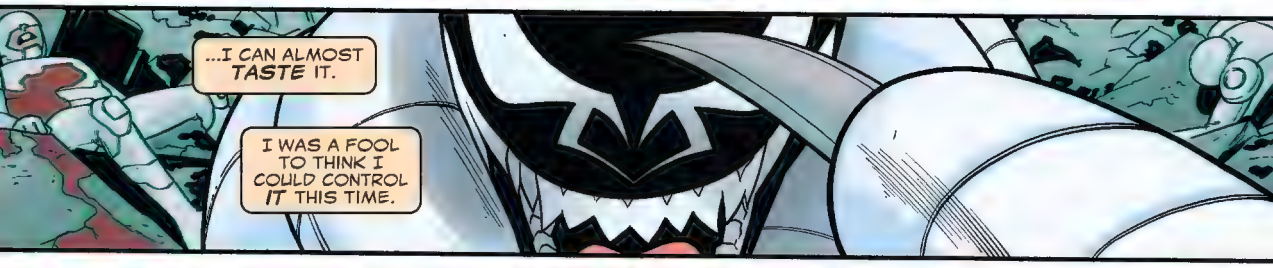
...THE UNIFORM DOES LOOK GOOD ON YOU.

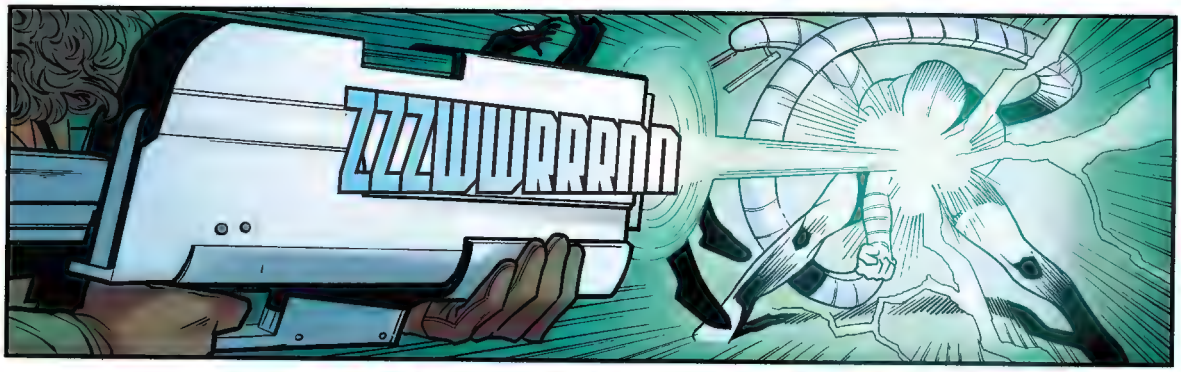

SSWHOOSH

UNGH!

BUT NOW IT'S TIME TO GIVE IT BACK.


I FEEL THE RAGE GROWING ONCE MORE...
DON'T MOVE TOO MUCH. I'VE NEVER SKINNED AN ANIMAL BEFORE.


...I CAN ALMOST TASTE IT.
I WAS A FOOL TO THINK I COULD CONTROL IT THIS TIME.

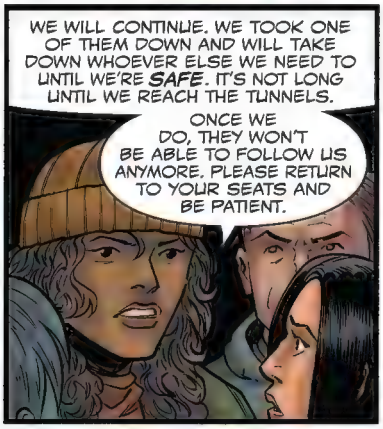

ZZZWWRRRNN

GET HIM TO THE DOOR-- THE EMP WON'T HOLD HIM TOO LONG.
ARE YOU OKAY?

YES.
HERE, I'LL HOLD THE DOOR FOR YOU.
UGH, I'M GOING TO RIP YOU ALL APART...

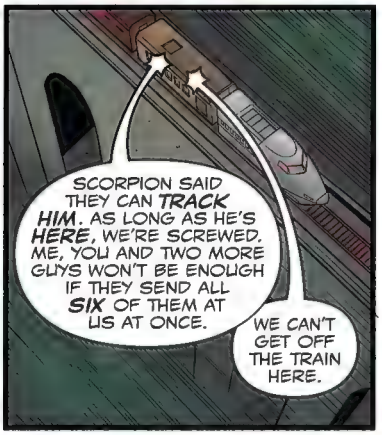
FWOOSH
YOU'RE ALL DEAD!
AAAARRGHHH!

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT, MARION?! YOU SAID THIS ROUTE WAS SAFE!
HOW DO YOU BRING THIS GUY IN HERE WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING?
I WANT TO GO HOME!
IT'S CRAZY! THEY KILLED AN OSCORP GUY! WE'RE DEAD IF WE GO BACK!
NOT IF WE GO BACK AND DELIVER THIS GUY! I THINK THEY'LL FORGIVE US.
QUIET!
THEY WON'T FORGIVE YOU. IF WE BRING TATSUYA TO THEM, THEY'LL KILL US THE SAME AS THEY'LL KILL HIM.


WE WILL CONTINUE. WE TOOK ONE OF THEM DOWN AND WILL TAKE DOWN WHOEVER ELSE WE NEED TO UNTIL WE'RE SAFE. IT'S NOT LONG UNTIL WE REACH THE TUNNELS.
ONCE WE DO, THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO FOLLOW US ANYMORE. PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR SEATS AND BE PATIENT.

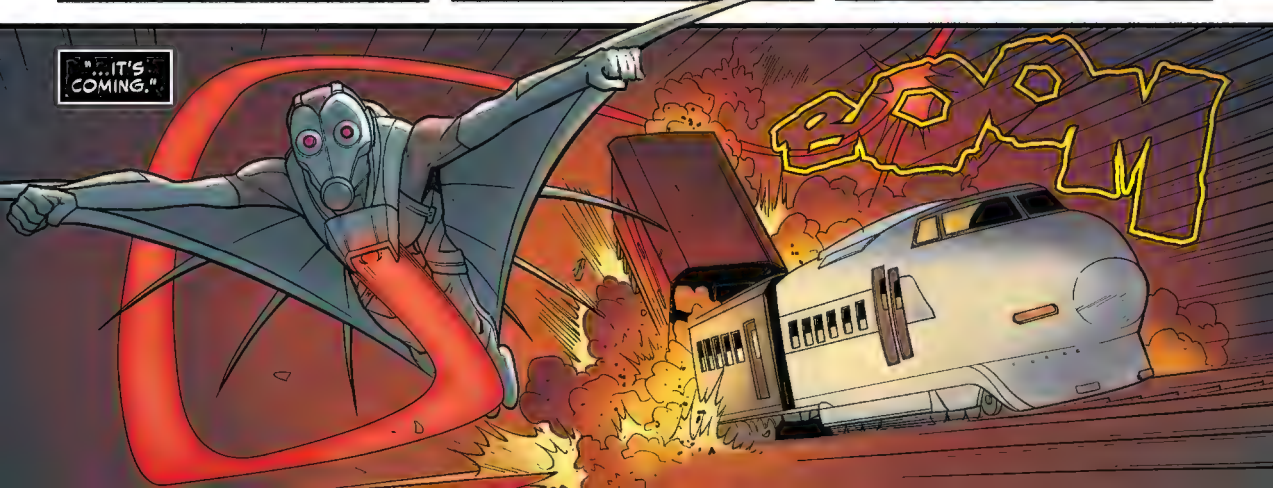
WE NEED TWO PEOPLE FROM THE FRONT CAR TO STAY HERE AND GUARD THIS OPEN DOOR.

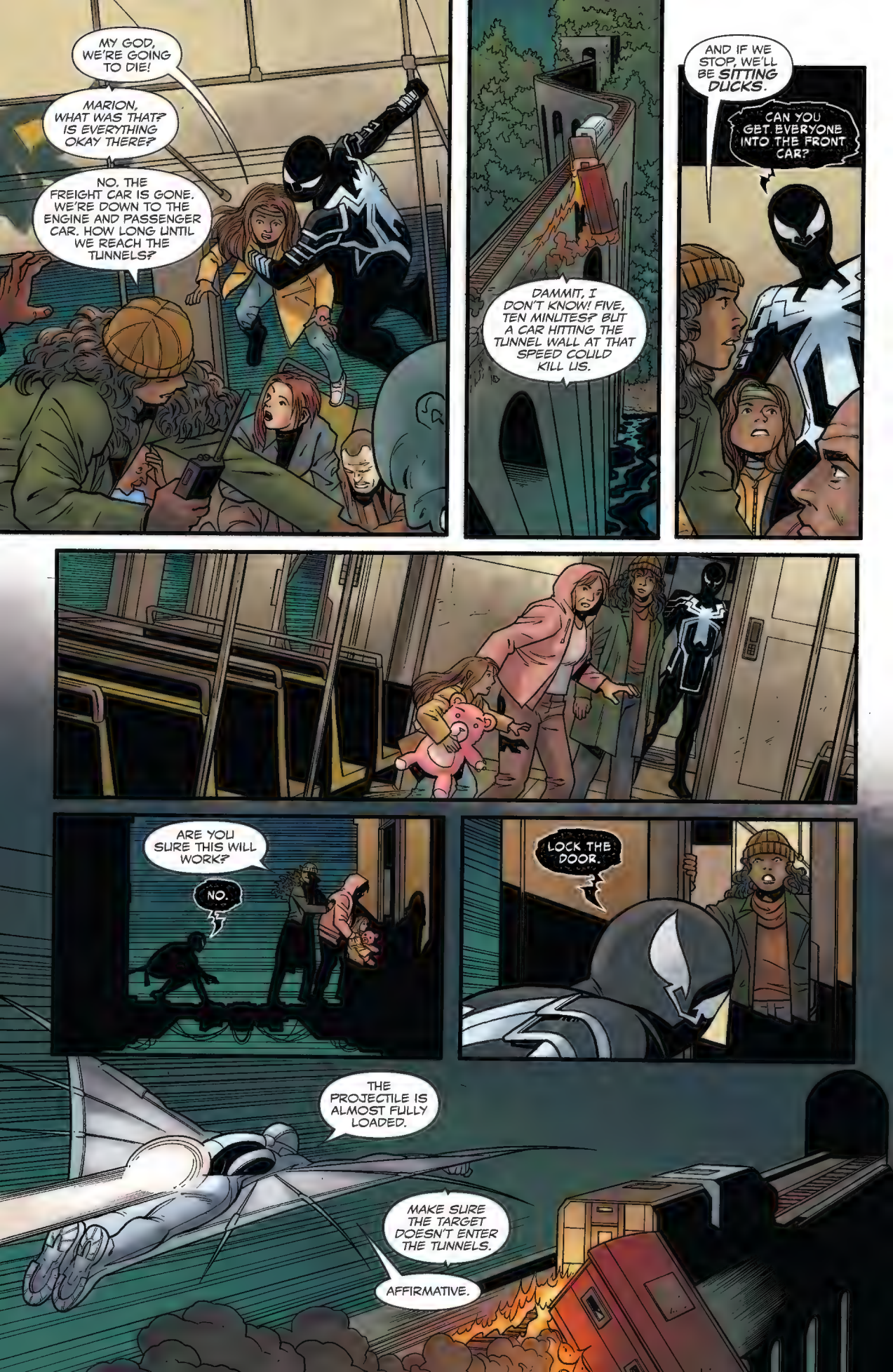
MARION, DID YOU SEE WHO THEY SENT AFTER HIM? SCORPION'S NO SLOUCH. THEY REALLY WANT TO CATCH THIS GUY...

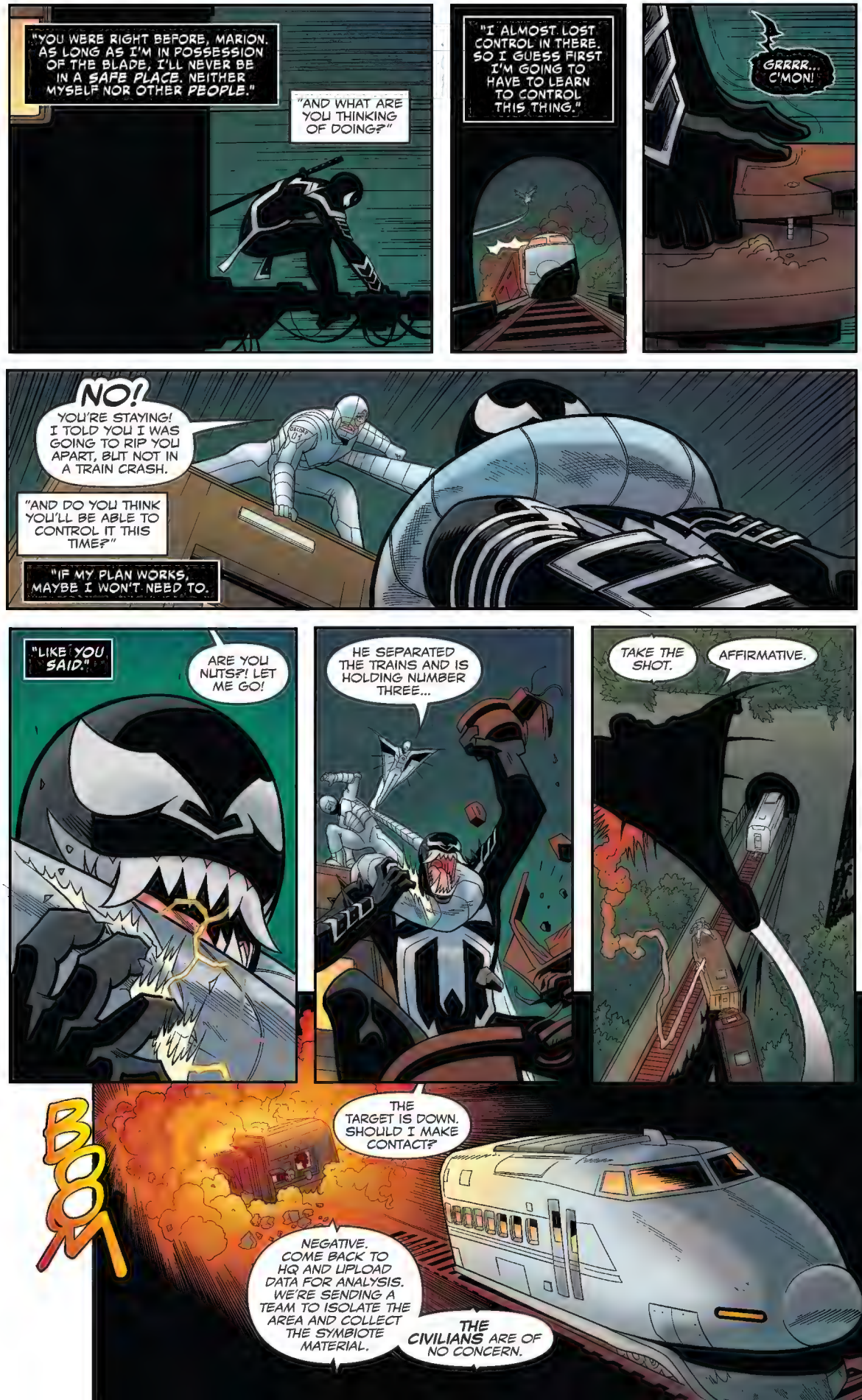

SCORPION SAID THEY CAN TRACK HIM. AS LONG AS HE'S HERE, WE'RE SCREWED. ME, YOU AND TWO MORE GUYS WON'T BE ENOUGH IF THEY SEND ALL SIX OF THEM AT US AT ONCE.
WE CAN'T GET OFF THE TRAIN HERE.

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT ANY OF US GETTING OFF.
MARION.

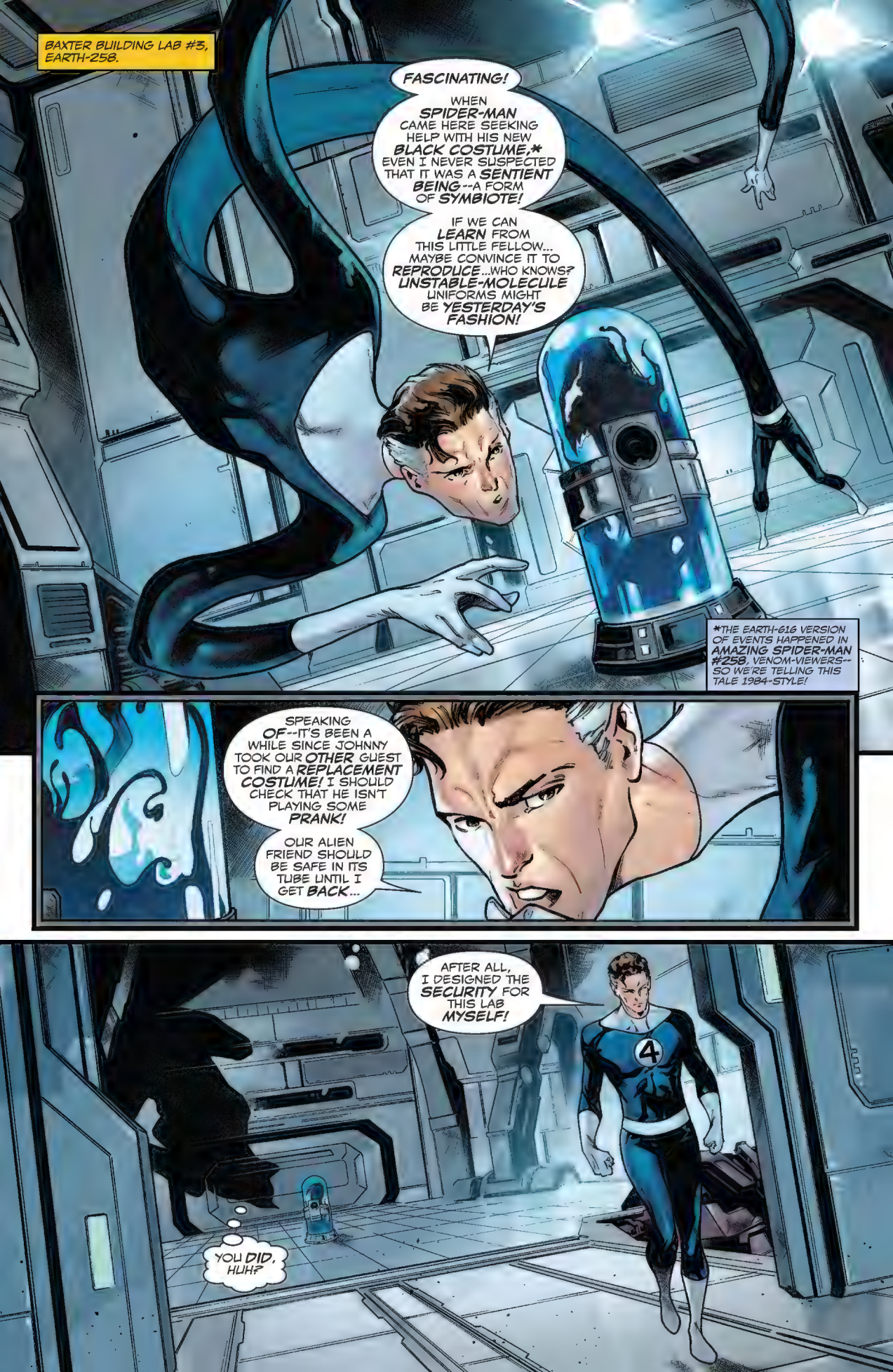
THE RED LIGHT...

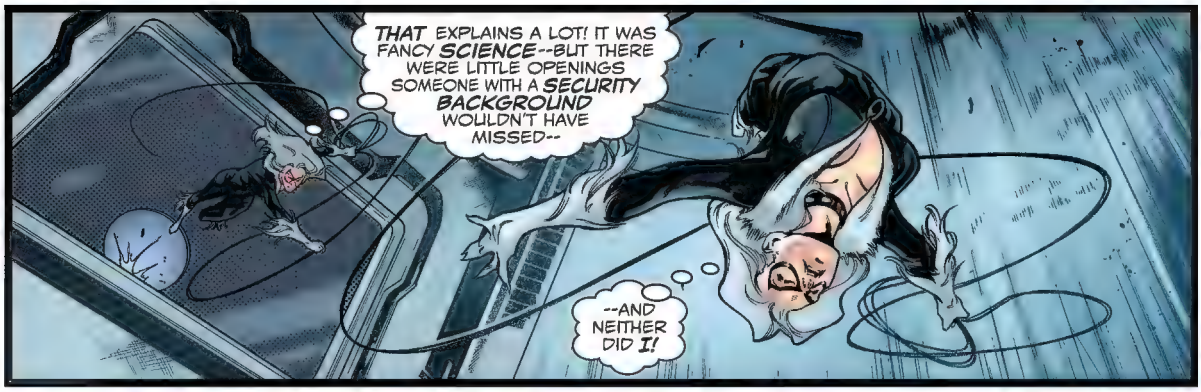

"...IT'S COMING."
BOOM

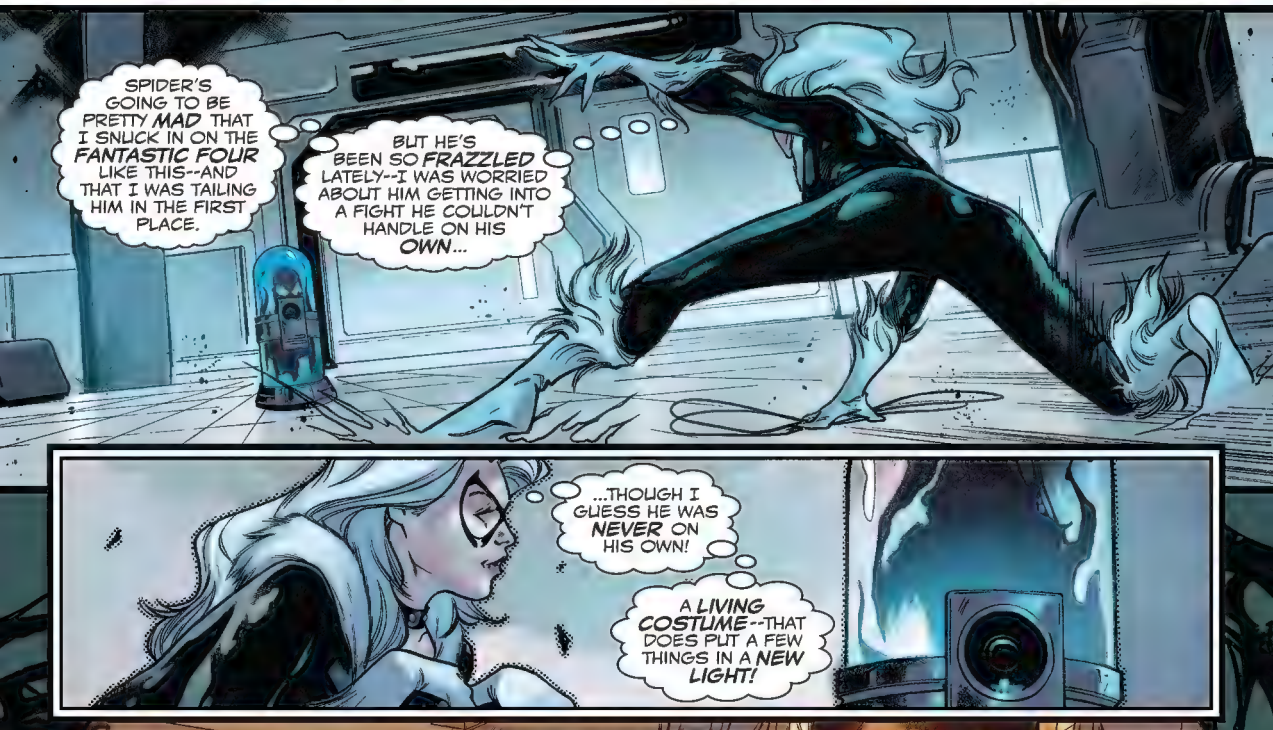

MY GOD, WE'RE GOING TO DIE!
MARION, WHAT WAS THAT? IS EVERYTHING OKAY THERE?
NO. THE FREIGHT CAR IS GONE. WE'RE DOWN TO THE ENGINE AND PASSENGER CAR. HOW LONG UNTIL WE REACH THE TUNNELS?
DAMMIT, I DON'T KNOW! FIVE, TEN MINUTES? BUT A CAR HITTING THE TUNNEL WALL AT THAT SPEED COULD KILL US.
AND IF WE STOP, WE'LL BE SITTING DUCKS.
CAN YOU GET EVERYONE INTO THE FRONT CAR?
ARE YOU SURE THIS WILL WORK?
NO.
LOCK THE DOOR.
THE PROJECTILE IS ALMOST FULLY LOADED.
MAKE SURE THE TARGET DOESN'T ENTER THE TUNNELS.
AFFIRMATIVE.


"YOU WERE RIGHT BEFORE, MARION. AS LONG AS I'M IN POSSESSION OF THE BLADE, I'LL NEVER BE IN A SAFE PLACE. NEITHER MYSELF NOR OTHER PEOPLE."
"AND WHAT ARE YOU THINKING OF DOING?"
"I ALMOST LOST CONTROL IN THERE. SO I GUESS FIRST I'M GOING TO HAVE TO LEARN TO CONTROL THIS THING."
GRRRR... C'MON!
NO!
YOU'RE STAYING! I TOLD YOU I WAS GOING TO RIP YOU APART, BUT NOT IN A TRAIN CRASH.
"AND DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CONTROL IT THIS TIME?"
"IF MY PLAN WORKS, MAYBE I WON'T NEED TO.
"LIKE YOU SAID."
ARE YOU NUTS?! LET ME GO!
HE SEPARATED THE TRAINS AND IS HOLDING NUMBER THREE...
TAKE THE SHOT.
AFFIRMATIVE.
BOOM
THE TARGET IS DOWN. SHOULD I MAKE CONTACT?
NEGATIVE. COME BACK TO HQ AND UPLOAD DATA FOR ANALYSIS. WE'RE SENDING A TEAM TO ISOLATE THE AREA AND COLLECT THE SYMBIOTE MATERIAL.
THE CIVILIANS ARE OF NO CONCERN.

MAYBE IT'S POSSIBLE TO USE THIS FOR SOMETHING GOOD, AFTER ALL.
I NEED TO WORK ON MYSELF. SO I WON'T BE AFRAID ANYMORE.
BUT FIRST, I NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS THING...
OSCORP
03
...AND I THINK I KNOW WHERE TO GET INFORMATION.
WEEKS LATER. DISTRICT ONE. UPPER CITY.
WHAT?
ZZZZHAAARGGHH
NO NEED TO USE THAT. I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT.
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME TO EXPLAIN. BUT YOU'RE IN DANGER. WE ALL ARE. AND WE COULD USE YOUR HELP, ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET, TO FIGHT.
YOUR MONSTER... YOU'RE IN SYNC.
YES, YOU CAN CONTROL IT WITH PROPER GUIDANCE.
WHERE I'M GOING, THERE'RE A LOT MORE PEOPLE LIKE US TO LEARN FROM. ARE YOU IN?
SHE SOUNDS SERIOUS ENOUGH ABOUT US BEING IN DANGER. MORE DANGER THAN I'VE BEEN IN SINCE I FOUND THAT SWORD.
AND I DON'T KNOW IF IT HAS TO DO WITH THE CONNECTION OF OUR SYMBIOTES, BUT SOMETHING IN HER VOICE MAKES ME WANT TO TRUST HER. MAKES ME FEEL COMPELLED TO JOIN THIS FIGHT.
YES.
I HOPE I'LL LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THE SYMBIOTE IN THE PROCESS.


BAXTER BUILDING LAB #3, EARTH-258.
FASCINATING! WHEN SPIDER-MAN CAME HERE SEEKING HELP WITH HIS NEW BLACK COSTUME,* EVEN I NEVER SUSPECTED THAT IT WAS A SENTIENT BEING--A FORM OF SYMBIOTE!
IF WE CAN LEARN FROM THIS LITTLE FELLOW... MAYBE CONVINCE IT TO REPRODUCE...WHO KNOWS? UNSTABLE-MOLECULE UNIFORMS MIGHT BE YESTERDAY'S FASHION!
*THE EARTH-616 VERSION OF EVENTS HAPPENED IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #258. VENOM-VIEWERS--SO WE'RE TELLING THIS TALE 1984-STYLE!
SPEAKING OF--IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE JOHNNY TOOK OUR OTHER GUEST TO FIND A REPLACEMENT COSTUME! I SHOULD CHECK THAT HE ISN'T PLAYING SOME PRANK!
OUR ALIEN FRIEND SHOULD BE SAFE IN ITS TUBE UNTIL I GET BACK...
AFTER ALL, I DESIGNED THE SECURITY FOR THIS LAB MYSELF!
4
YOU DID, HUH?


THAT EXPLAINS A LOT! IT WAS FANCY SCIENCE--BUT THERE WERE LITTLE OPENINGS SOMEONE WITH A SECURITY BACKGROUND WOULDN'T HAVE MISSED--
--AND NEITHER DID I!


SPIDER'S GOING TO BE PRETTY MAD THAT I SNUCK IN ON THE FANTASTIC FOUR LIKE THIS--AND THAT I WAS TAILING HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE.
BUT HE'S BEEN SO FRAZZLED LATELY--I WAS WORRIED ABOUT HIM GETTING INTO A FIGHT HE COULDN'T HANDLE ON HIS OWN...

...THOUGH I GUESS HE WAS NEVER ON HIS OWN!
A LIVING COSTUME--THAT DOES PUT A FEW THINGS IN A NEW LIGHT!

WHEN I BUST IN ON HIM AND THAT "FRIEND" OF HIS, MARY JANE, I FIGURED THE WRITING WAS ON THE WALL FOR US!
LET'S FACE IT, OUR RELATIONSHIP'S ALWAYS BEEN ON SHAKY GROUND...DIFFERENT WORLDS, YADA YADA...
...BUT WHEN I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF MY BIG WALKOUT--THE OLD "YOU'RE NOT LEAVING ME, I'M LEAVING YOU" BIT--
--HE STOPPED ME FROM LEAVING WITH ONE OF HIS WEBS! PRETTY GOOD SIGN, I THOUGHT...

...BUT IT WASN'T HIS WEB, WAS IT?
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO DIDN'T WANT ME TO GO.
YEAH. YOU LIKE HIM A LOT, TOO--BUT HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND YOU, DOES HE?
I GUESS WE HAVE THAT IN COMMON...
...AND I DON'T LIKE LIVING CREATURES TRAPPED IN TINY CAGES.
HERE'S HOPING I DON'T REGRET--
--THEEEEEP!

MEANWHILE, REED RICHARDS' SUSPICIONS ARE CONFIRMED...
PREEEESENTING... THE ALL-NEW, ALL-BOMBASTIC BAG-MAN!
VERY FUNNY, FLAMEBRAIN! I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS!
COULDN'T BE HELPED, WEBS! IT WAS EASY ENOUGH TO DIG UP AN OLD COSTUME FOR YOU, BUT--HEH-HEH--WE'RE A LITTLE SHORT ON MASKS...
HOLD EVERYTHING!
I'M GETTING AN ALERT FROM THE LAB--SAYING THE CREATURE'S LOOSE!
AND ONLY THE FINAL CONTAINMENT IS SIGNALING ME, SO SOMETHING MUST HAVE DISABLED THE OTHER ALARM SYSTEMS!
THAT MEANS THE BAXTER BUILDING IS UNDER ATTACK--BY AN UNKNOWN INTRUDER!
SO WHY ISN'T MY SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING?
DID THE CREATURE FIND A WAY TO CIRCUMVENT IT, OR...?
OH NO...!
SPIDER?

...
WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?

OH DEAR.
WHAT AM I WEARING? WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?
WHATEVER IT IS, IT LOOKS FABULOUS ON YOU. SERIOUSLY, NO NOTES.
IT'S THE SYMBIOTE, YOU IDIOT! IT'S GOT HOLD OF HER SOMEHOW!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL YOU, SPIDEY. ON HER, IT ACTUALLY WORKS.
IT'S FINE, SPIDER. I THINK IT LIKES ME--
IT LIKES TO BOND PERMANENTLY IS WHAT IT LIKES! IT WAS DRIVING ME AROUND AT NIGHT LIKE A STOLEN FERRARI--
LIKE THAT GUILT OF YOURS DOESN'T KEEP YOU SWINGING ALL NIGHT ANYWAY.
SOUNDS TO ME LIKE IT WAS JUST TRYING TO GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANTED...
NO! IT DOESN'T WANT A FRIEND--IT WANTS A HOST!
WELL, YOU'RE NOT GETTING HER, YOU GOOEY PILE OF--
SPIDER--
--BACK OFF!
AAAHH!

SEE? SEE? IT'S ALREADY TAKING CONTROL!
NO, THAT WAS ME.
YOU DON'T GET TO JUST POUNCE ON ME FROM ACROSS THE ROOM, OKAY? NOT IN A WORK SITUATION. WE HAVE BOUNDARIES.
REED--DO SOMETHING!
I'M WORKING THROUGH A HYPOTHESIS. JUST GIVE ME A MOMENT TO FETCH SOMETHING FROM MY OTHER LAB...
YOU DO YOUR THING, REED--
--AND I'LL KEEP HER CONTAINED WITH A PATENTED HUMAN TORCH FLAME CAGE!
LET'S NOT AND SAY YOU DID, OKAY?
MY FRIEND REALLY DOESN'T LIKE FIRE...
KINDA THE POINT OF THE EXERCISE, LADY. IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THE HEAT, MAYBE STAY OUT OF THE BAXTER BUILDING--
HEY, HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE, ANYWAY?
I REPROGRAMMED THE SECURITY.
VOICE COMMAND: FLAME OFF.

"FLAME OFF"? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO--?
GAAAHH!
REED'S FIRE-RETARDANT FOAM! EVEN I CAN'T BURN THIS STUFF AWAY!
WHAT A REVOLTIN'--OW!-- DEVELOPMENT!
CAT--LISTEN TO ME! IF YOU DON'T TAKE THAT COSTUME OFF NOW, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN--
ACTUALLY...
...I THINK THIS MIGHT BE THE ANSWER TO THAT.
VREEEEE
UNNHH--
YES! EAT SONIC, KILLER COSTUME--
OH NO! THE SONIC GUN ISN'T WORKING!
IT'S TOO LATE!

ACTUALLY, IT'S WORKING PERFECTLY, SPIDER-MAN--
--BECAUSE IT'S NOT THE SONIC WEAPON I USED EARLIER. I JUST USED THE HOUSING TO WHIP UP A PORTABLE BRAIN CHEMISTRY SCANNER.
IF THE CREATURE IS SENTIENT, IT WILL HAVE ALIEN EQUIVALENTS OF OUR DOPAMINE, SEROTONIN AND WHAT HAVE YOU...
YOU'RE... MONITORING ITS EMOTIONAL STATE? THAT GUN'S A MOOD RING?
QUITE SO. AND THE "MOOD RING" IS SHOWING EXTREME LEVELS OF CONTENTMENT AND HAPPINESS, EVEN AFTER THAT FIGHT.
FAR MORE SO THAN WHEN YOU WERE WEARING IT, IN FACT.
IN OTHER WORDS--LIKE I'VE BEEN SAYING THIS WHOLE TIME-- IT LIKES ME.
SO YOU MADE A NEW FRIEND. WHAT ABOUT THE PERMANENT BONDING, CAT?
MAYBE THAT'S WHY IT GOT SO STRESSED WHEN IT WAS ON YOU--BECAUSE YOU SEE THAT AS A PROBLEM.
THE SAME WAY YOU'RE SO SCARED OF A "PERMANENT BOND" WITH ME...
IT'S--IT'S NOT THAT I'M SCARED, CAT... I JUST...
DAILY BUGLE
YOU DON'T OWE ME EXPLANATIONS, SPIDER--BUT I CAN'T SAY THE SAME ABOUT THAT REDHEAD. YOU SHOULD CALL HER.
VOICE COMMAND: FAST EXIT.
VRRR

SEE YOU ON THE ROOFTOPS, OKAY?
CAT, WAIT--THE ALIEN--
--WAS UNDOUBTEDLY ONLY ACTING OUT BECAUSE OF YOUR FEAR OF COMMITMENT, SPIDER-MAN.
ON SOMEONE WILLING TO ACCEPT IT, IT SHOULD BE PERFECTLY SAFE.
SO YOU'RE SAYING I CAN'T EVEN MAINTAIN A RELATIONSHIP WITH A COSTUME...?
AH, IT'S THE OLDEST STORY! BOY MEETS GIRL, GIRL MEETS COSTUME...
"...GIRL IS VASTLY BETTER AT WEB-SLINGING THAN BOY..."
LOOK OUT, NEW YORK--
--THERE'S AN ALL-NEW BLACK CAT IN TOWN!
AND SHE CAN CONTROL THE SYMBIOTE AS WELL AS I CAN.
SOMEONE TO KEEP AN EYE ON.
...AND, FINALLY, BOY GETS BAG!
SHUT UP, JOHNNY.
THE END!

RYKER'S ISLAND, NEW YORK CITY. EARTH-345.
YER DEAD MEAT, DO YA HEAR ME?!
THAT'S RIGHT--YOU KEEP WALKIN'!
YOU THINK YER BETTER THAN US, DON'T YA, MEAT?!
SOME KINDA LETHAL PROTECTOR?!
TOO BAD YOU AIN'T GOT NOBODY IN HERE PROTECTIN' YOU...
YER A DEAD MAN, EDDIE BROCK!
UNLESS YOU GROW EYES IN THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD, I PROMISE YOU THIS--
EDDDDIEEEE...
--YOU AIN'T NEVER GETTING OUT OF HERE ALIVE!
YESSSSS...

YESSSS... MISSSED YOU, EDDIEEE...
NO-- SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT--!
MUST BREAK FREE--!
KZZZRAAK!
NYARRRRRRGH!
RRRN-- WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?
NO-- IT CAN'T BE...
TH-TH-THIS I-I-IS NOT EDDIE?
WELL NOW, DON'T LOOK SO UNGRACIOUS THERE, LONG JOHNS...

...YOU'LL HAVE LOTS OF TIME TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR NEW HOST-- A LIFE-MODEL DECOY.
OR SHOULD I SAY... A LIFE-MODEL VENOM?
CH-CHAK
CH-CHAK
CH-CHAK

THIS BODY--IT FEELS SO WRONG...
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME, HUMAN--?
THE NAME'S "DUM DUM" DUGAN, FREAK--AND I'M THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
WHEN WE HEARD EDDIE BROCK'S SYMBIOTE WAS ON THE LOOSE, WE RIGGED A TOP-OF-THE-LINE L.M.D. TO BRING YOU IN...
SYNTHETIC HORMONES AND ARTIFICIAL TISSUE, ADAPTABLE SECURITY HARDWARE TO KEEP YOU RESPECTFUL...
...AND A MOLECULAR FUSION CORE KEYED TO MY VOICEPRINT TO KEEP YOU BONDED FOR, SAY...
...THE NEXT THOUSAND YEARS?
...WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY OTHER?
EDDIE BROCK MOUTHED OFF TO THE WRONG CELLMATE... AND CLETUS KASADY PUT A SHIV BETWEEN HIS RIBS.
B-EDDIE...
BUT YOU'RE GONNA GET A NEW LEASE ON LIFE--IN THE CUSTODY OF THE LIFE FOUNDATION.
HRRR...I SEE. THIS LOATHSOME MACHINE IS INDEED QUITE ADVANCED...
...ESPECIALLY ON THE INSIDE.
SAFETY PROTOCOLS DISENGAGED.
NO...
OH YES...
ZHRIPP
NOW YOU UNDERSTAND--YOU MAY THINK YOU HAVE US OUTNUMBERED...

SUZERAIN
WWWAAA WWWAAA
...BUT YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH A SCORE TO SETTLE!
NOW THEN...WHERE WERE WE?
PLASMA ORDNANCE ACTIVATED.
"I KNOW--WE'LL BEGIN WITH YOU GIVING ME THAT VOICEPRINT CODE...
"...AND AFTER THAT...WE'LL FIND OUT IF BRAINS ARE STILL ON THE MENU."
HEH--NOT BAD FOR A SCRAP...
THIS HAS DADDY-O WRITTEN ALLLLL OVER IT

HOLY HANNAH--THAT MONSTER IS INSANE--!
GOTTA GET TO THE RADIO TOWER TO CALL FOR BACKUP...
FOOLISH HUMAN--DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD ESCAPE FROM ME?
RELEASE ME. GIVE ME THE VOICEPRINT, AND PERHAPS I'LL LET YOU LIVE.
BUT TEST MY PATIENCE FURTHER, AND WE'LL START NEGOTIATING PIECE BY PIECE!
GUH--!
SPLUTCH
NO--!
SORRY, POPS--YOU AIN'T GOING NOWHERE...
NOT UNTIL CARNAGE IS FINISHED WITH YOU.

KROOOOOOM
NO-- YOU KILLED HIM!
HA! NOW THAT'S THE SPIRIT, OL' TIMER!
NNFF-- YOUR STRENGTH... IMPOSSIBLE!
WHAT ARE YOU?!
EXPLOSIVE MICROMUNITIONS ACTIVATED.
KRRRT
THOOM KTHOOM KTHOOM
AH, THAT'S RIGHT! IN THIS REALITY WE HAVEN'T MET YET.
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS, FAKE EDDIE?
CAN'T YOU SEE THE RESEMBLANCE WHEN IT'S STARING YOU IN THE FACE?!
TEK
I AIN'T JUST A SYMBIOTE-- I'M YOUR SON, OLD MAN!
AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT!
SHNNNKK

RRNN-- CAN'T GET FREE--!
RRRRRRRRRRR
HOW 'BOUT THAT, TIN MAN? TURNS OUT YOUR L.M.D. CAN'T HANDLE A SIMPLE M.R.I.!
BUT NOT ME, PAL--'CUS CARNAGE THRIVES PURELY ON RED MEAT!
OOH, THOSE S.H.I.E.L.D. BOYS DIDN'T SKIMP ON THE NEURAL FEEDBACK, HUH?!
SHNNKT
ARRGH--!
YOU'RE PROBABLY FEELIN' EVERY LAST BIT OF THIS, AIN'T YA?!
IF SO, THAT'S REAL GOOD.
SHRPP
...'CAUSE ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE, THE ONLY CONSTANT IS PAIN.
SLSSSH
...AND I'D HATE FOR YOU TO MISS OUT ON THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE!
SHING

OH, DADDY-O... YOU REALLY ARE PATHETIC, AREN'T YOU?
JUST LOOK AT YOU--YOU'VE LOST YOUR HOST...
LOST YOUR PURPOSE...
AND NOW--YOU HAVEN'T JUST LOST YOUR FREEDOM...
...YOU'RE ABOUT TO LOSE YOUR LIFE.
NNF--MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT... BUT I'VE STILL GOT A SONIC CANNON.
THOOOOOOM
NO--!

STAY SHARP, EVERYONE--WE'RE NOT FAR BEHIND WHATEVER IS TEARING THROUGH REALITIES KILLING VENOMS...
...BUT WE NEED TO SAVE AS MANY OF THEM AS WE CAN.
WAIT--BOYS, I THINK I'VE FOUND HIM!
CAN YOU HEAR ME? MY NAME'S ANNE WEYING--I'M HERE TO FREE YOU FROM THIS PRISON.
TH-THIS "PRISON"-- SKRAT...
N-NO-- Y-Y-YOU DON'T--VRRR-- UNDERSTAND-D...
I AM TH-THE PRISON...
AND I'VE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN A LIFE SENTENCE.
THE L.M.V. IN...
"THE PRISONER"

Earth-311.
WORD OF THE RED DEATH HAS CREPT INTO OUR KINGDOM
NO PESTILENCE HAS EVER BEEN SO FATAL, SO HIDEOUS, AS THIS SCARLET MONSTER
PSSST. YOU, YES, YOU!
ARE YOU ILL?
SHORT OF BREATH? DIZZY? BLEEDING PROFUSELY FROM YOUR PORES?
...NO? FIT AS A FIDDLE, YOU SAY? WELL, THEN!
ENTREZ-VOUS...

PERMIT ME AN INTRODUCTION...I AM SKELTON. HIERONYMUS SKELTON.
I AM WOEFULLY THE LAST OF MY KIND... THE FINAL JEST!
--ER.
COURT JESTER. A DEAD PROFESSION IN THIS DAY AND AGE, BY MOST ACCOUNTS.
ALL THE OTHER FOOLS HAVE BLED OUT FROM THEIR ORIFICES!
NOW YOU SEE WHY PRINCE IONELLO HAS CHOSEN TO PROTECT ME, YES?
IF I WERE TO DIE...
...SO DIES LAUGHTER.
PARDON, BUT WE MUST MAKE HASTE. SHOWTIME IS UPON US! AND I HAVE YET TO SLIP INTO MY COSTUME...
PRINCE IONELLO HAS SUMMONED HIS DEAREST COMPATRIOTS TO SAFETY.
WORD HAS IT BARON VICTOR OCTAVIOUS IS WORKING ON SOME KIND OF CURE. BEST OF LUCK WITH THAT! HE BELIEVES LICKING A TOAD'S HINDQUARTERS WILL CURE US ALL OF THIS POX!
LET THIS RED PESTILENCE RUN ITS MORBID COURSE THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, WHILE WE...

...LAUGH!
WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT YOU, MY DEAR SKELTON? THESE LAST FEW MONTHS WOULD HAVE BEEN DREARY INDEED WITHOUT YOU LIVENING US UP...
REJOICE, EVERYONE! LAUGH! SING! DRINK! I HAVE PROVIDED ALL THE APPLIANCES OF PLEASURE! WE HAVE BUFFOONS! WE HAVE MUSIC! AND WE HAVE...
...MUCH, MUCH MORE WINE TO IMBIBE!

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE TALE OF THE STRUMPET AND THE SPIDER?
THE PRICKLY INSECT TRIED TO SPIN HIS WEB UP BESIDE HER.
HE PERCHED ON HER BUM, AND WHEN HE WAS DONE...
...SHE CAUGHT MEN LIKE FLIES IN GOSSAMER!
CLANG CLANG CLANG
I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU ALL STARTED THIS CELEBRATION WITHOUT ME...

I AM QUITE OFFENDED FRANKLY
I HAVE BEEN SEARCHING HIGH AND LOW FOR SIR FUNNY BONES HERE. THE REST OF YOU ALL ARE SIMPLY...
...COLLATERAL DAMAGE.
WHO DARES?!
WHO DARES INSULT US WITH THIS BLASPHEMOUS MOCKERY?
SEIZE HIM!
UNMASK HIM--THAT WE MAY KNOW WHOM WE HAVE TO HANG AT SUNRISE!

ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU WISH TO TAKE A PEEK?
WITH PLEASURE.
DO NOT SAY I DID NOT WARN YOU...
IT CERTAINLY IS NO LAUGHING MATTER.
PARDON, THAT IS NOT ENTIRELY TRUE.
THE ONLY ONE WHO IS LAUGHING.

...IS ME.
I ONLY CAME FOR THE CLOWN! THE REST OF YOU ALL CAN SIMPLY SIT BACK, RELAX, AND...
...ENJOY THE SHOW.
SSSLK
YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA HOW LONG I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU... I'VE KILLED PRACTICALLY EVERY LAST JESTER BETWEEN HERE AND SPAIN!
HAVE YOU BEEN HIDING FROM ME?
HIDE FROM YOU? HAVE WE EVEN MET BEFORE?

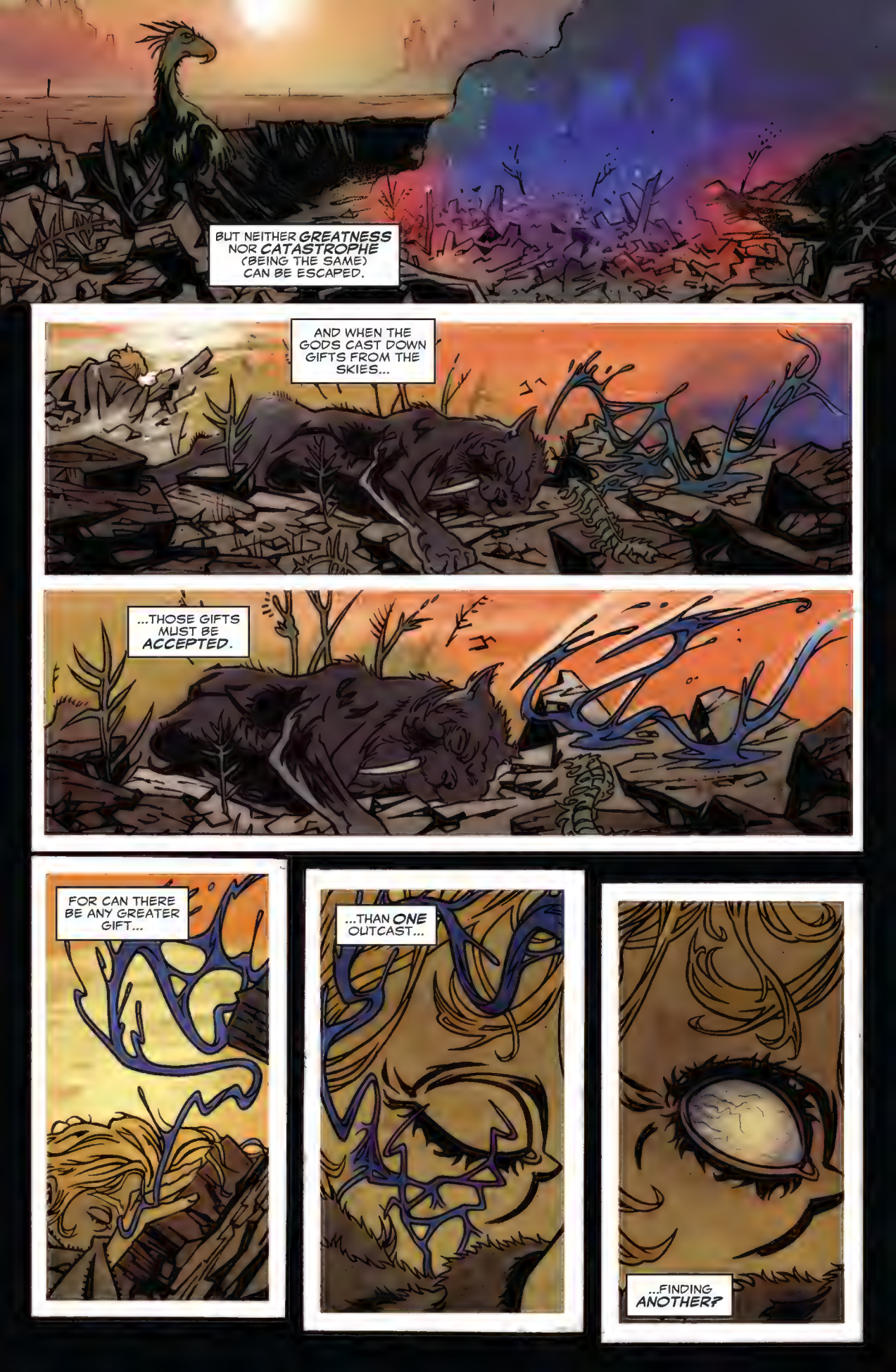
ISN'T IT IRONIC? ALL THESE FOLKS, AFRAID OF THE RED DEATH...
...WHEN THE BLACK DEATH HAS BEEN HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT RIGHT ALONGSIDE THEM?
SPPLOH
YOU ARE THE PLAGUE THAT HAS LAID WASTE TO OUR POPULACE!
WHAT KIND OF CONTAGION ARE YOU?
NOT A CONTAGION. NOT A PLAGUE... I AM BUT A WEE BIT OF GOOD OL' FASHIONED
CARNAGE

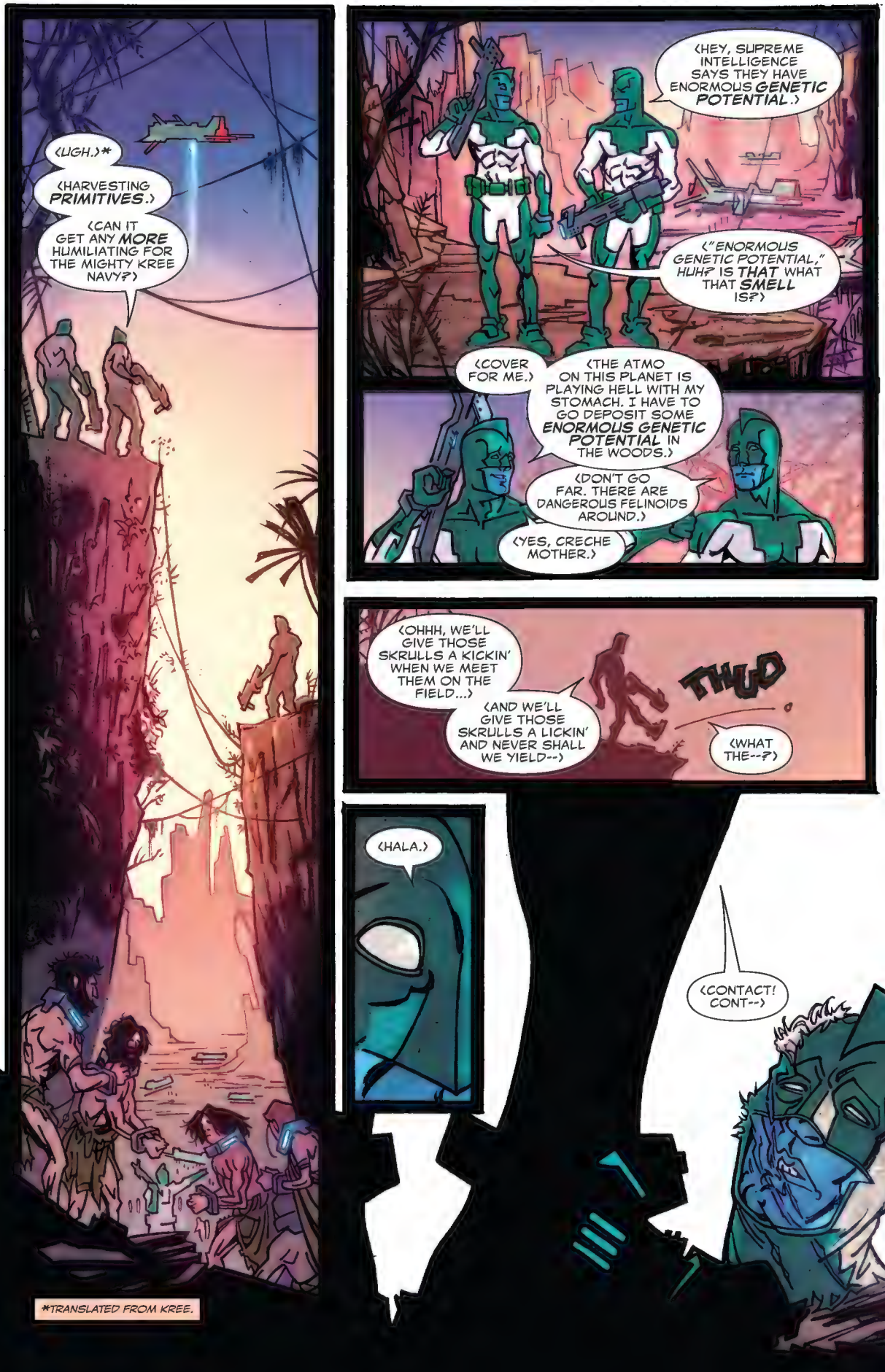
FUNNY THING ABOUT THE RED DEATH... NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU BUTTRESS YOURSELF UP... NO MATTER WHERE YOU HIDE...
...I ALWAYS FIND A WAY INSIDE.
LET US SEE IF YOU CAN HACK IT.
SPPLUCH
LOOK AT YOU ALL! AM I THE ONLY ONE HERE WHO FINDS THIS FUNNY?
WHO'S LAUGHING NOW?

DARKNESS AND CARNAGE AND THE RED DEATH HOLD ILLIMITABLE DOMINION OVER ALL!
End.

3
23
+ROMO

THEY HAD CAST DILANN OUT ON THE DAY HER FATHER, BROKK, HAD DIED.
BROKK HAD ALWAYS BEEN UNLUCKY. CURSED. MOST BELIEVED.
AND EVERYONE KNEW THAT SOMETIMES CURSES DIDN'T DIE WITH THE CURSED, BUT INSTEAD LIVED ON IN THOSE OF THEIR BLOOD.
THAT WASN'T WHAT HE HAD TOLD HER THOUGH.
HER FATHER HAD SAID THE GODS HAD MARKED HER FOR A GREAT DESTINY.
BUT THE TRIBE WANTED NO PART OF IT.
THEIR WORD FOR "GREATNESS" WAS THE SAME AS ANOTHER IN THEIR LANGUAGE:
"CATASTROPHE."


BUT NEITHER GREATNESS NOR CATASTROPHE (BEING THE SAME) CAN BE ESCAPED.
AND WHEN THE GODS CAST DOWN GIFTS FROM THE SKIES...
...THOSE GIFTS MUST BE ACCEPTED.
FOR CAN THERE BE ANY GREATER GIFT...
...THAN ONE OUTCAST...
...FINDING ANOTHER?


〈UGH.〉*
〈HARVESTING PRIMITIVES.〉
〈CAN IT GET ANY MORE HUMILIATING FOR THE MIGHTY KREE NAVY?〉
〈HEY, SUPREME INTELLIGENCE SAYS THEY HAVE ENORMOUS GENETIC POTENTIAL.〉
〈"ENORMOUS GENETIC POTENTIAL," HUH? IS THAT WHAT THAT SMELL IS?〉
〈COVER FOR ME.〉
〈THE ATMO ON THIS PLANET IS PLAYING HELL WITH MY STOMACH. I HAVE TO GO DEPOSIT SOME ENORMOUS GENETIC POTENTIAL IN THE WOODS.〉
〈DON'T GO FAR. THERE ARE DANGEROUS FELINOIDS AROUND.〉
〈YES, CRECHE MOTHER.〉
〈OHHH, WE'LL GIVE THOSE SKRULLS A KICKIN' WHEN WE MEET THEM ON THE FIELD...〉
〈AND WE'LL GIVE THOSE SKRULLS A LICKIN' AND NEVER SHALL WE YIELD--〉
THUD
〈WHAT THE--?〉
〈HALA.〉
〈CONTACT! CONT--〉
*TRANSLATED FROM KREE.

GREATNESS AND CATASTROPHE.
SHE UNDERSTOOD THAT NOW.
HER BELOVED, HER OTHER HALF, EMBRACED HER WITH A DESPERATE NEED SHE HAD NEVER KNOWN IN ANOTHER BEFORE, ONE MATCHED ONLY BY HER OWN.
IT LAYERED MUSCLES OVER HERS, LENT HER CLAWS AND FANGS, BLACKED OVER HER YELLOW HAIR WITH A WILD MANE OF INK.
SHE WAS NO LONGER JUST DILANN, THE CURSED OUTCAST. IT WAS NO LONGER A NAMELESS ORPHAN FROM THE STARS, SO FAR FROM THE PLACE OF ITS SPAWNING.
TOGETHER, THEY WERE THE BLACK FANG.

LIKE THE REST OF HER PEOPLE, HER FIRST INSTINCT WAS TO THINK THE INVADERS GODS.
BUT HER OTHER HALF ASSURED HER THAT THEY WERE ALL TOO MORTAL.
THEY SCREAMED AND DIED AND BLED LIKE ANY OTHER.
THEY SHRIEKED AND WAILED IN ALIEN TONGUES WHEN SHE VISITED HER GREATNESS AND CATASTROPHE UPON THEM.
THEY DIED, FAR FROM THE STARRY HOMES TO WHICH THEY WOULD NEVER RETURN, AWAY TO WHICH THEY WOULD HAVE STOLEN HER PEOPLE.
HER PEOPLE.
CAST OUT SHE MAY HAVE BEEN, BUT IN THE FACE OF THE ALIEN SLAVERS...
...HOW COULD SHE BE ANYTHING BUT HER PEOPLE'S LETHAL PROTECTOR?

SHRAKK
A SHINING MAN WHO CASTS LIGHTNING.
"IS THIS A GOD, MY LOVE?" ASKED DILANN TO HER OTHER HALF.
"NO," IT HISSED.
"IT IS A TOOL.
"AND ANY TOOL MAY BE BROKEN, BELOVED."

"IS IT WITHIN OUR POWER TO DO SO, MY LOVE?" ASKED DILANN.
"I WISH IT," DILANN TOLD IT.
"IT IS DANGEROUS," REPLIED HER BELOVED, "BUT IF YOU WISH IT, IT WILL BE DONE-- EVEN IF IT MEANS OUR DEATH."
"I CANNOT LET THEM BE TAKEN INTO SLAVERY. THEY ARE MY PEOPLE."
"THEN THEY ARE MY PEOPLE TOO," REPLIED HER BELOVED.
"FOR AS LONG AS THEY DESERVE YOU, DILANN BLACK-FANG."

HEY...
...WAKE UP, KID...
WHUFF!
WHO--? WHAT--?
RELAX.
MY OTHER INTERFACED WITH YOURS SO WE COULD UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.
YOU... SAVED ME.
FROM THE SHINING MAN.
WELL, YOU WERE MOST OF THE WAY THERE.
I JUST FINISHED IT OFF AND LET ALL THESE PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR MANACLES.
<IS... EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?>
<DID THE INVADERS HURT YOU?>
<...DILANN?>

(YES! IT'S ME! I SAVED YOU!)
(SEE? FATHER TOLD YOU I HAD A GREAT DESTINY!)
(I--)
AHH!
(YOU BROUGHT THIS UPON US!)
(CURSED! MONSTER!)
(BAD LUCK!)
(BEGONE, DILANN, BEFORE YOU BRING MORE INVADERS UPON US!)
(NO! NO, I--)
(I--)
(AS YOU WISH IT.)
(YOU CAST OUT DILANN... AND YOU CAST OUT THE BLACK FANG.)

(YOU DO NOT DESERVE HER!)

FORGET THEM, KID.
I DON'T SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE, BUT I KNOW WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE WHEN YOUR TRIBE GOES SOUR ON YOU.
BUT THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.
I WANT YOU TO JOIN MY TRIBE. BECAUSE SOMEONE'S COMING FOR US, COMING FOR ALL OF US.

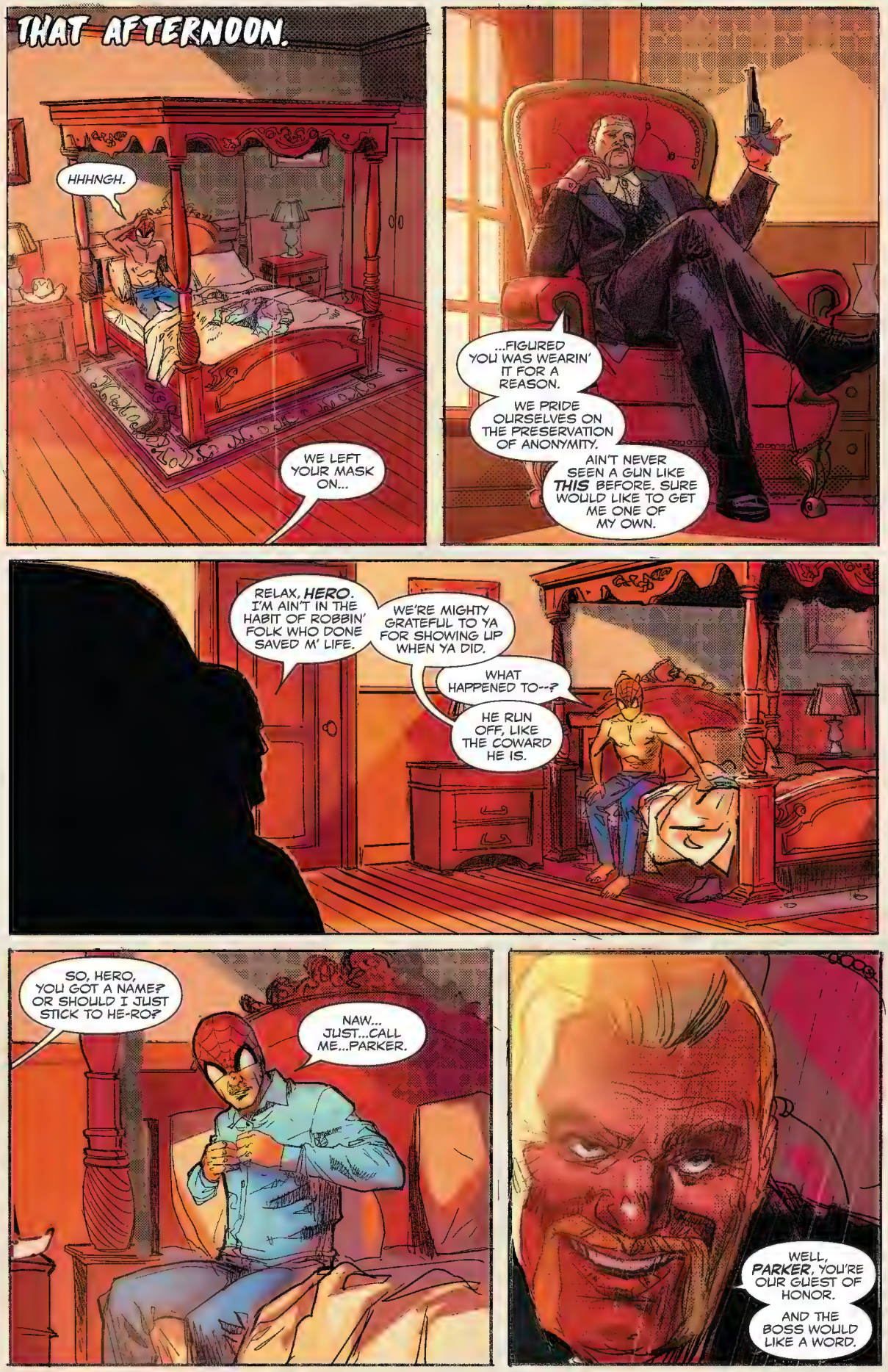
LET HIM COME.
LET THEM ALL COME.
WE WILL STAND WITH YOU AND SHOW HIM THE MEANING OF GREATNESS.
AND OF CATASTROPHE.
END.

HUNGER.
THE INSATIABLE URGE TO FEED...
FWIP!
...TO CONSUME...
DEVOUR
WAA-CRACK!
EVENTUALLY THIS CURSED LAND WILL DEVOUR US ALL
FWIP!
BUT HUNGER CAN BE KEPT AT BAY
THERE'S ONE CRAVING THAT WON'T BE DENIED...

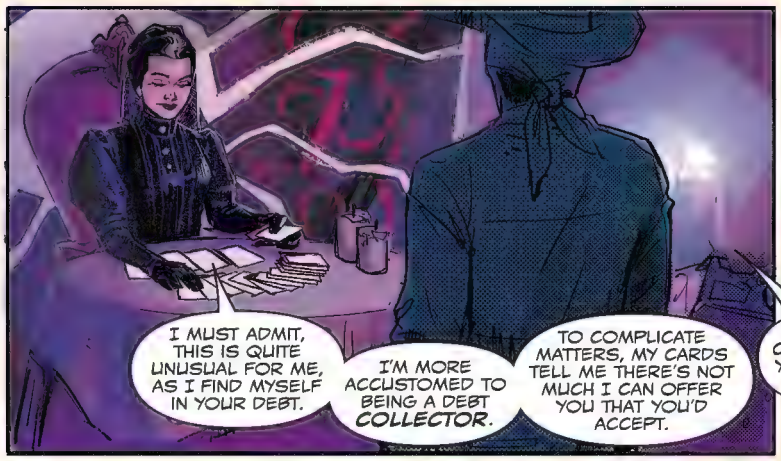
THIRST.
AND RIGHT NOW, I'M DYING OF IT
I S'POSE THINGS COULD ALWAYS BE WORSE
THIS MIGHT BE A TRAGEDY...
...OR A WARNING EITHER WAY...
I NEED A DRINK

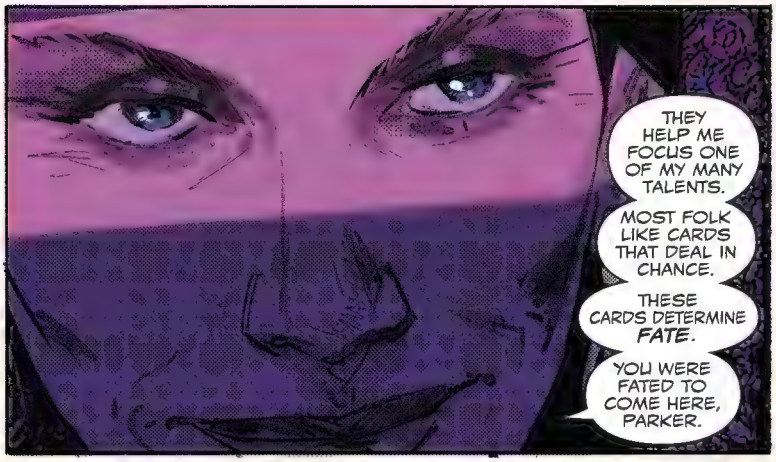
GIT AWAY FROM ME!
YOU C'ME HERE AND GIVE ME WHAT I PAID FER!
TELLIN' ME WHAT I CAN AND CAN'T DO!
SLAP!
I'MMA GET MY MONEY'S WORTH--
HEY!

I SUGGEST YOU TURN AROUND AND RIDE ON.
SHE'S MINE! I PAID FER HER!
YOU BROKE THE RULES. NO ONE LAYS A HAND ON OUR GIRLS.
WHAT KINDA BUSINESS YOU RUNNIN'? YOU TREAT THE PRODUCT BETTER THAN THE CUSTOMER?
CORRECT. TAKE THE WARNING AND GO.
I'LL GIVE YOU A WARNING. I'MMA COME BACK HERE WITH MY BOYS, AND WE'RE GONNA LAY MORE THAN A HAND ON ALL Y'ALL.
I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND IT. GOOD DAY.
ED! LOOK OUT!
THWANG!
FLOP


THAT AFTERNOON.
HHHNGH.
WE LEFT YOUR MASK ON...
...FIGURED YOU WAS WEARIN' IT FOR A REASON.
WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON THE PRESERVATION OF ANONYMITY.
AIN'T NEVER SEEN A GUN LIKE THIS BEFORE. SURE WOULD LIKE TO GET ME ONE OF MY OWN.
RELAX, HERO. I'M AIN'T IN THE HABIT OF ROBBIN' FOLK WHO DONE SAVED M' LIFE.
WE'RE MIGHTY GRATEFUL TO YA FOR SHOWING UP WHEN YA DID.
WHAT HAPPENED TO--?
HE RUN OFF, LIKE THE COWARD HE IS.
SO, HERO, YOU GOT A NAME? OR SHOULD I JUST STICK TO HE-RO?
NAW... JUST...CALL ME...PARKER.
WELL, PARKER, YOU'RE OUR GUEST OF HONOR.
AND THE BOSS WOULD LIKE A WORD.

OUR HERO!
THERE HE IS!
COME SAY HI!
THIS WAY, PARKER.
THERE'LL BE TIME FOR THAT LATER.
ENTER.
OUR GUEST IS HERE TO SEE YOU, MA'AM. NAME'S PARKER.
PARKER, MEET THE PROPRIETOR OF THIS ESTABLISHMENT, MADAME BROCK.
EDWARD, PLEASE. MADAME IS FAR TOO FORMAL A TITLE FOR OUR NEW FRIEND.
PLEASE, CALL ME EDNA.
I'LL LEAVE YOU TO IT.
THANK YOU, EDWARD. BE SURE TO TEND TO MR. PARKER'S PONY.
YES, MA'AM.
COME IN, MR. PARKER. I WON'T BITE.
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU ARRIVED.
MY APOLOGIES IF I KEPT YA WAITING. I ONLY JUST WOKE UP.
I DON'T MEAN MY ROOM. I MEAN HERE. MY RANCH.
I KNEW YOU WAS COMIN'.
XI
JUSTICE
I SENSED IT.


I MUST ADMIT, THIS IS QUITE UNUSUAL FOR ME, AS I FIND MYSELF IN YOUR DEBT.
I'M MORE ACCUSTOMED TO BEING A DEBT COLLECTOR.
TO COMPLICATE MATTERS, MY CARDS TELL ME THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN OFFER YOU THAT YOU'D ACCEPT.
THOSE CARDS TELL YOU ABOUT ME?
THESE CARDS TELL ME ABOUT EVERYTHING.
THE HANGED MAN


THEY HELP ME FOCUS ONE OF MY MANY TALENTS.
MOST FOLK LIKE CARDS THAT DEAL IN CHANCE.
THESE CARDS DETERMINE FATE.
YOU WERE FATED TO COME HERE, PARKER.
WE WERE FATED TO MEET.
VI
THE LOVERS.

ALTHOUGH I DON'T ALWAYS GUESS EVERY DETAIL.
DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D BE SAVING THE LIFE OF MY EMPLOYEES--
BEG PARDON. SURE WOULD LIKE TO SHOW YOU MY APPRECIATION.
YOUR HOSPITALITY IS THANKS ENOUGH, MA'AM.
A MAN OF MORALS IN A LAWLESS LAND--
MPERANCE.
--AIN'T YOU SPECTACULAR.

AT LEAST LET US LOAD YOU UP WITH SOME SUPPLIES.
MUCH OBLIGED.
COME ON IN, DAISY. IT'S ALL RIGHT.
MADAME, THERE'S TROUBLE--
I KNOW.
THE DEVIL

I WARNED Y'ALL!
YOU DONE CROSSED THE WRONG MAN!
NOW WE'RE GONNA BURN THIS PLACE TO THE GROUND!
I'VE SUFFERED YOUR BARBARITY FOR TOO LONG, ALEXANDER.
TURNED A BLIND EYE, 'CAUSE THE MONEY WAS GOOD.
BUT NOW... NO AMOUNT OF MONEY WILL SPARE YOUR LIFE.
YOU'VE POKED THE SNAKE...
...NOW FACE THE MADAME'S VENOM!

WHIP!
CRACK!
WHIP!
CRACK!
THWANG! THWANG THWANG THWANG THWANG
THWANG THWANG THWANG
HAPPY TO RIDE TO THE NEAREST SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO HAVE THEM ROUNDED UP.
NO NEED. WE HANDLE OUR OWN JUSTICE HERE.
GIRLS?
BANG! BANG!
BANG! BANG!

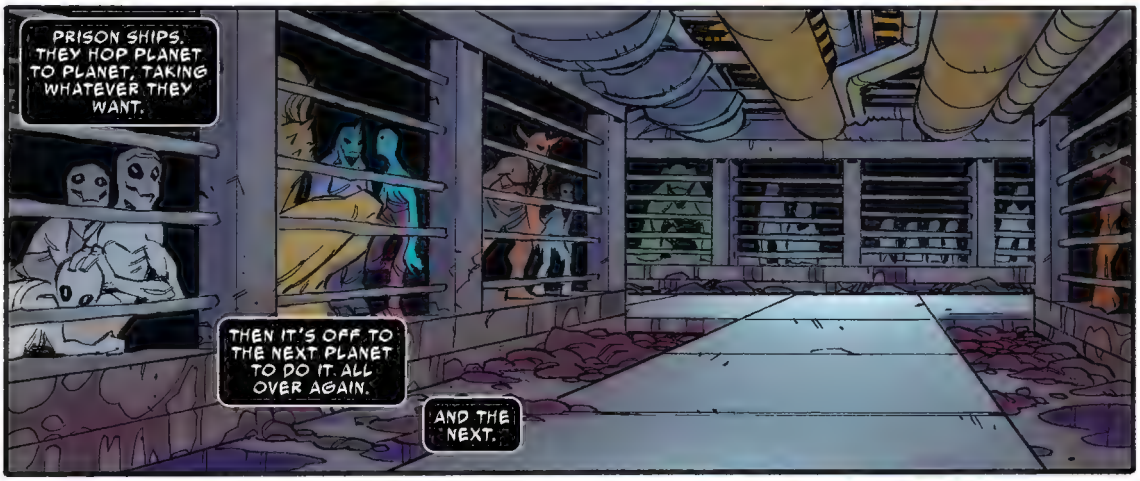
DON'T JUDGE US TOO HARSHLY BY THE WAY WE HANDLED THINGS.
IT'S IMPORTANT WE SET FIRM BOUNDARIES, SO AS NOT TO BE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF.
THAT'S YOUR BUSINESS. JUST NOT THE WAY I LIKE TO HANDLE THINGS.
DON'T KNOCK IT TILL YOU TRY IT.
WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, WEB-SLINGER! I KNOW WE WILL.
MIGHT NOT LET GO OF YOU SO EASY NEXT TIME.
THANKS FOR THE SUPPLIES.
TAKE CARE, MISS BROCK.
HE'S OFF. YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND COME OUT NOW. I'M READY FOR YA.

HOW DID YOU--? MY NAME IS ANNE WEYING, AND--
YOU'RE HERE TO RECRUIT ME. MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH. ALL THAT.
I'M ALL YOURS, MISS WEYING. I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.

I SENSED IT.
QUEEN of SWORDS

END.

EVEN NOW I CAN HEAR THEIR CRIES.
THEIR CALLS FOR HELP ECHO THROUGH THE VAST BLACKNESS OF SPACE.
THEY NEVER STOP, EVEN IN DEATH.
AS AN AGENT OF THE COSMOS, I HAVE BEEN TASKED WITH ANSWERING THAT CALL.


PRISON SHIPS. THEY HOP PLANET TO PLANET, TAKING WHATEVER THEY WANT.
THEN IT'S OFF TO THE NEXT PLANET TO DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN.
AND THE NEXT.

ONCE THEIR CARGO IS CRAMMED FULL OF CHATTEL, THEY SLINK OFF INTO DEEP SPACE.

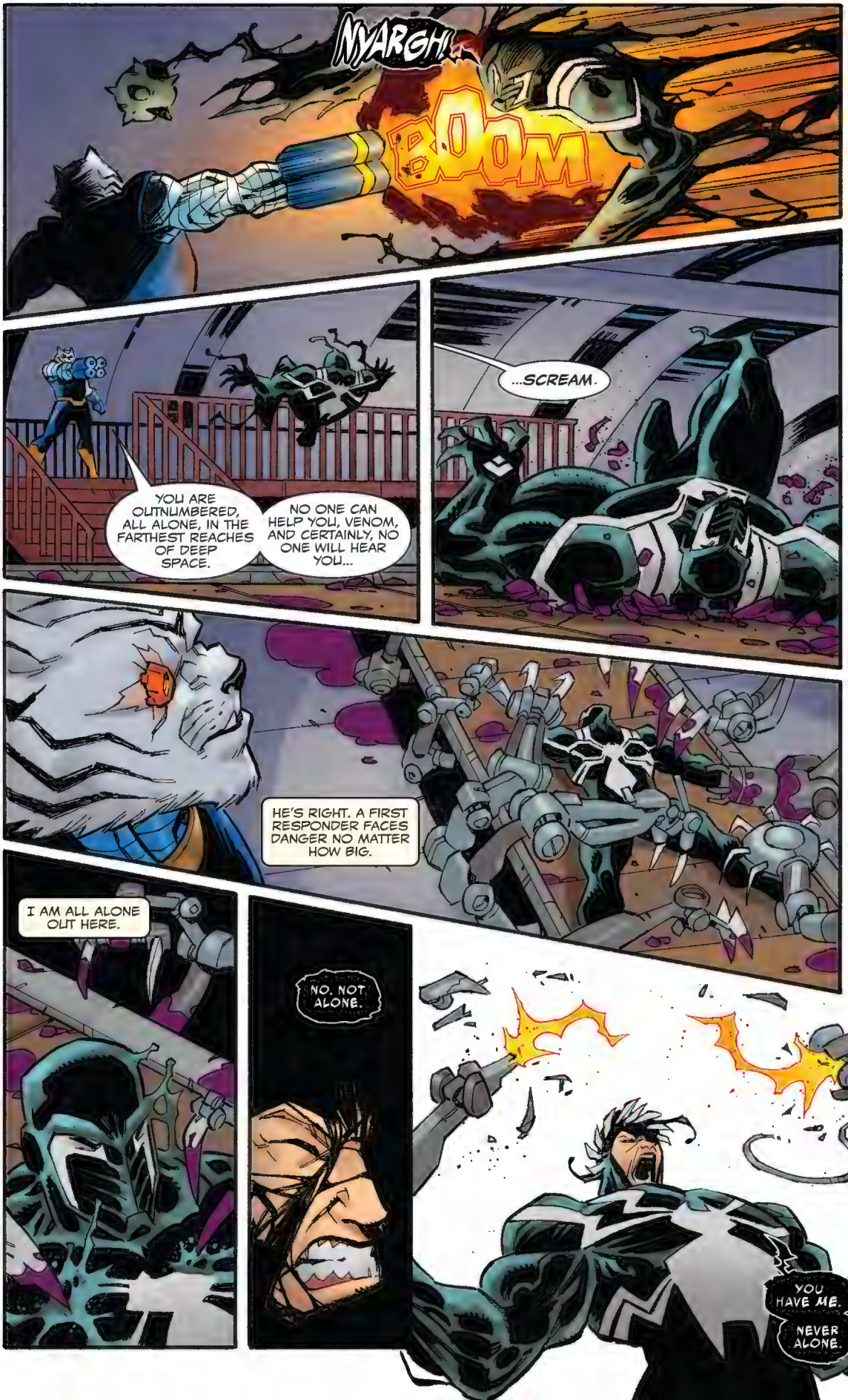
VESSELS LIKE THESE OPERATE IN THE OUTER REGIONS, WHERE WATCHFUL EYES WON'T LOOK.

WON'T CARE.

HARVESTING.
THERE'S MONEY TO BE MADE IN THE CULLING OF ORGANS.
BUT THEY NEED TO BE FRESH.
STILL BEATING.
THE HEART OF A KELLREXIAN CHILD CAN FETCH A HEFTY SUM ON THE BLACK MARKET.
SOME CONSIDER IT A DELICACY.
LORD TITUS, THESE CREATURES SQUIRM MORE THAN MOST!
I CONSIDER IT CRUELTY.
THEN SQUEEZE HARDER!
I WANT TO BE DONE WITH THIS CROP AND OFF TO THE NEXT PLANET IN LESS THAN AN HOUR!
HOW MANY INNOCENT LIVES HAVE BEEN LOST ON BOARD THIS SHIP?
NO MORE. NOT TODAY.

NOT WHILE FLASH THOMPSON IS ON DUTY.
ALL GUTS, NO GLORY FOR
VENOM
SPACE KNIGHT
EH, TITUS?
BLAM
SORRY TO BUST UP YOUR LITTLE ORGAN-DONOR OPERATION, TITUS...
...I'M SHUTTING YOU DOWN.

KILL HIM! NOW!
THEY SAY BY THE TIME THE LIGHT FROM THE SUN REACHES YOU...
...THAT STAR IS ALREADY DEAD.
THE CALL OF THE COSMOS MOVES FASTER THAN LIGHT.
IT BROUGHT ME HERE.
WHEREVER THERE IS INJUSTICE, NO MATTER HOW DISTANT...
...I'LL FACE IT. HEAD-ON.
HOW ABOUT I THROW YOU ON THE ASSEMBLY LINE? LET THE WET WORKS TEAR THAT KLYNTAR OFF YOUR BODY LIKE SKINNING AN ANIMAL?
DON'T YOU KNOW? THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO...
...SKIN A CAT.


NYARGH!
BOOM
YOU ARE OUTNUMBERED, ALL ALONE, IN THE FARTHEST REACHES OF DEEP SPACE.
NO ONE CAN HELP YOU, VENOM, AND CERTAINLY, NO ONE WILL HEAR YOU...
...SCREAM.
HE'S RIGHT. A FIRST RESPONDER FACES DANGER NO MATTER HOW BIG.
I AM ALL ALONE OUT HERE.
NO. NOT ALONE.
YOU HAVE ME.
NEVER ALONE.

PARTNERS, REMEMBER?
PARTNERS.
THEN LET'S SHOW THIS PUSS IN MOON BOOTS WHAT WE'RE MADE OF.
WHUMP
NO MORE KIDNAPPING, NO MORE HARVESTING.
NO... MORE...
PURGE
...CABIN PRESSURE!

NO TIME TO THINK. MUST ACT FAST.

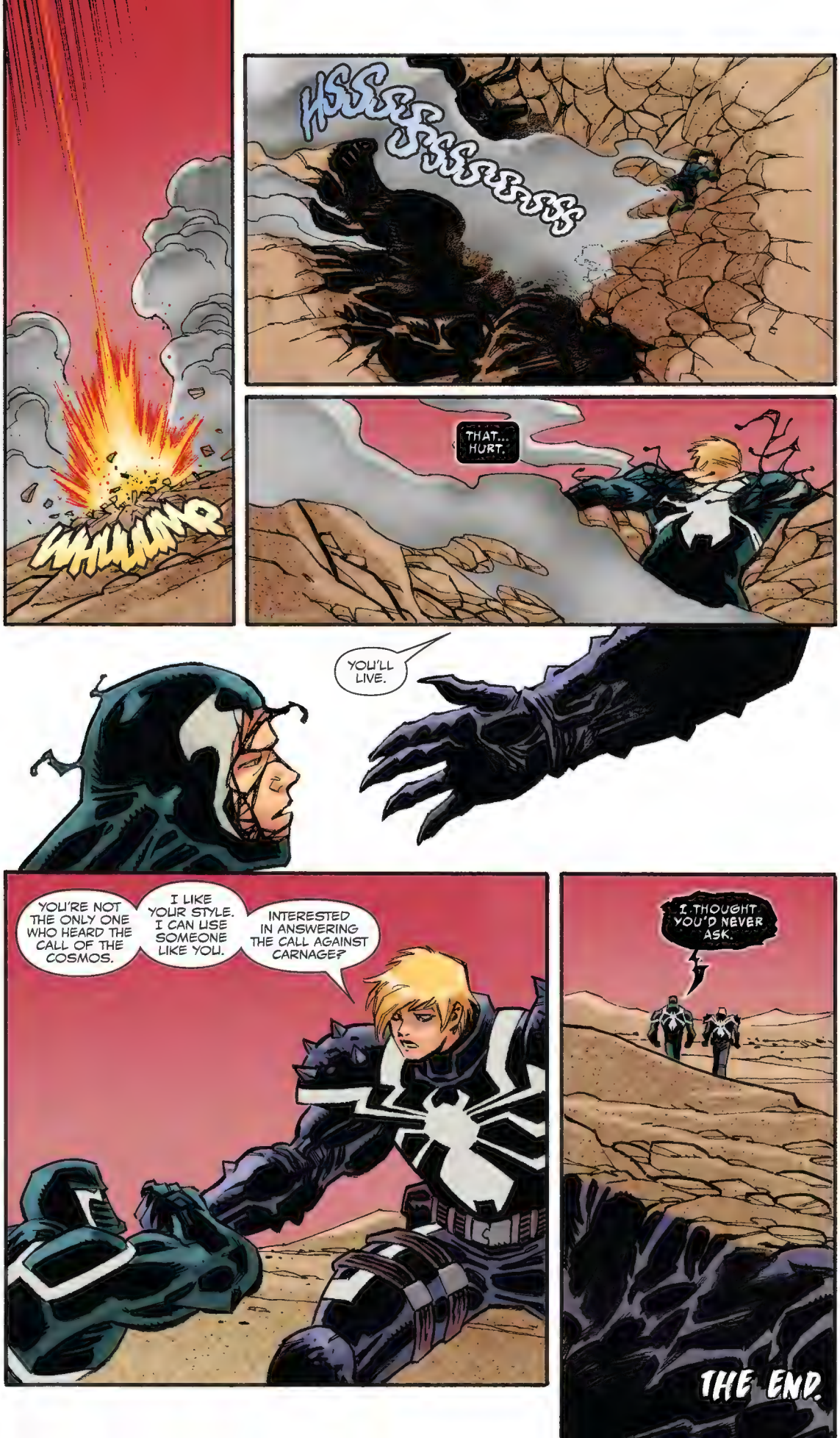
CATS IN SPACE. WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT WE'D SEE THE DAY?

LOOKS LIKE TITUS IS DOWN TO EIGHT LIVES NOW... BUT WHO'S COUNTING?
HEY... IS THAT GRAVITY?

OVERHEATING. FALLING TOO FAST.

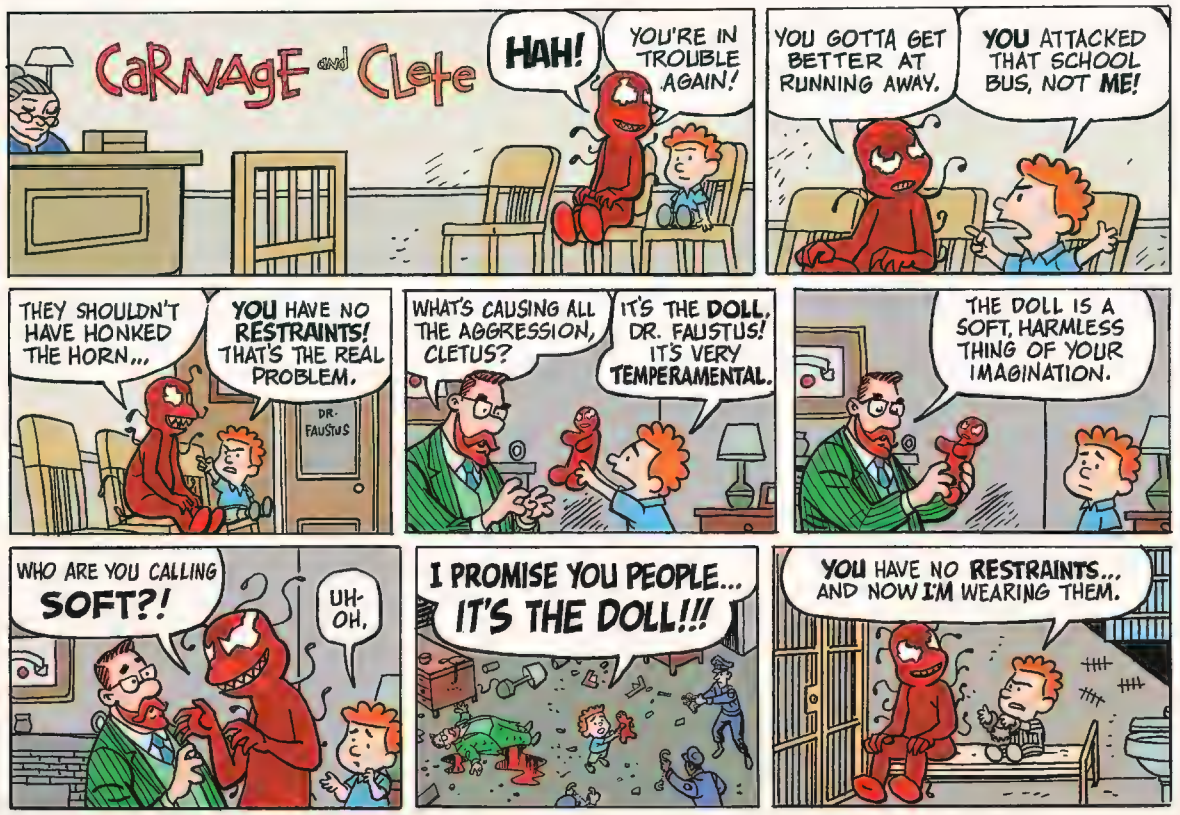
BURNING.
HURTING.

CAN'T HOLD ON...


WHUUUMP
HSSSSSSSSSSS
THAT... HURT.
YOU'LL LIVE.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO HEARD THE CALL OF THE COSMOS.
I LIKE YOUR STYLE. I CAN USE SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
INTERESTED IN ANSWERING THE CALL AGAINST CARNAGE?
I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK.
THE END.

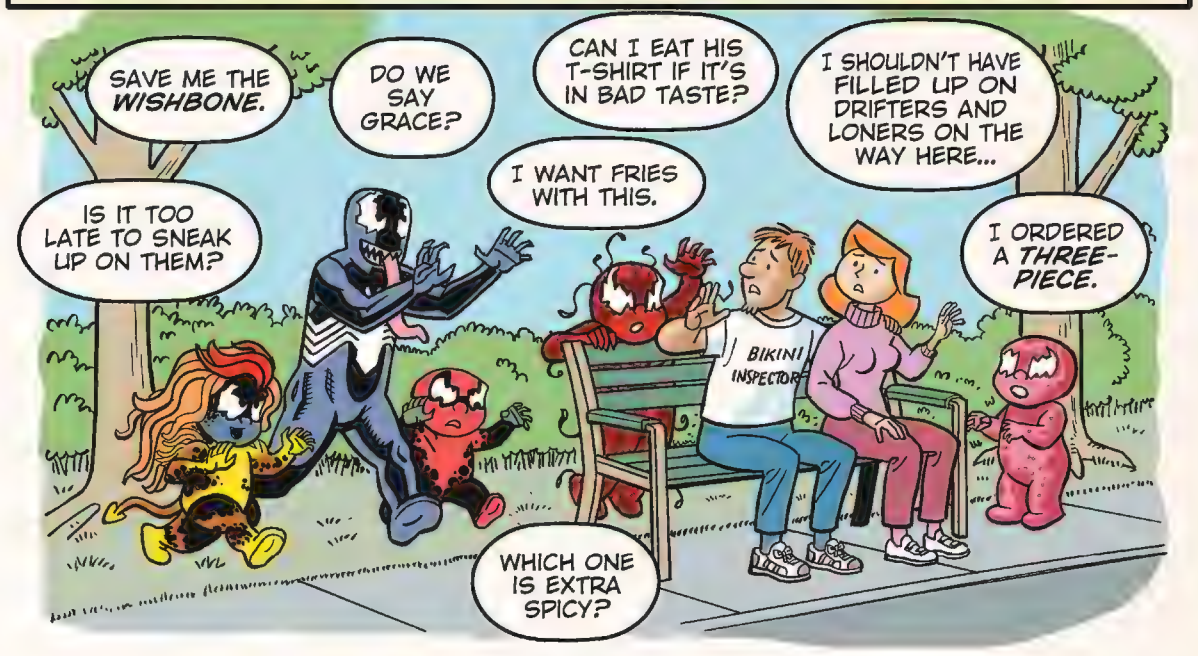
TALES OF THE BLACK COSTUME

CARNAGE and CLETE

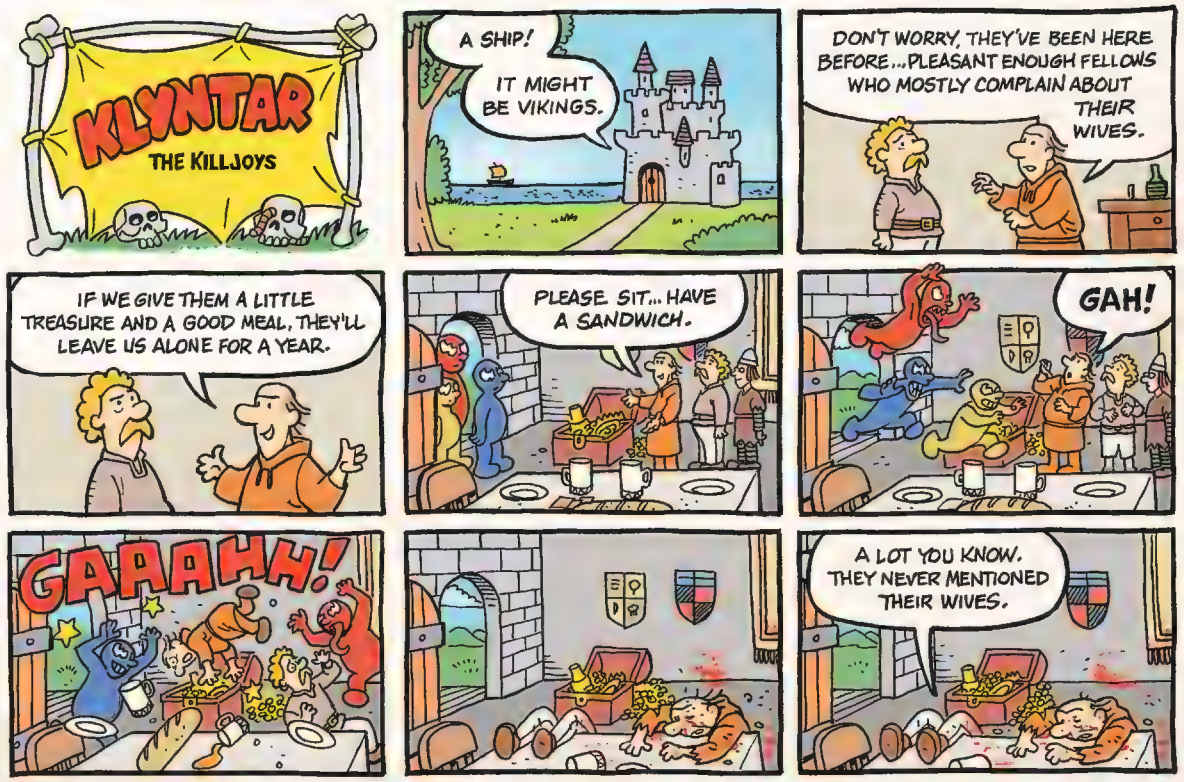


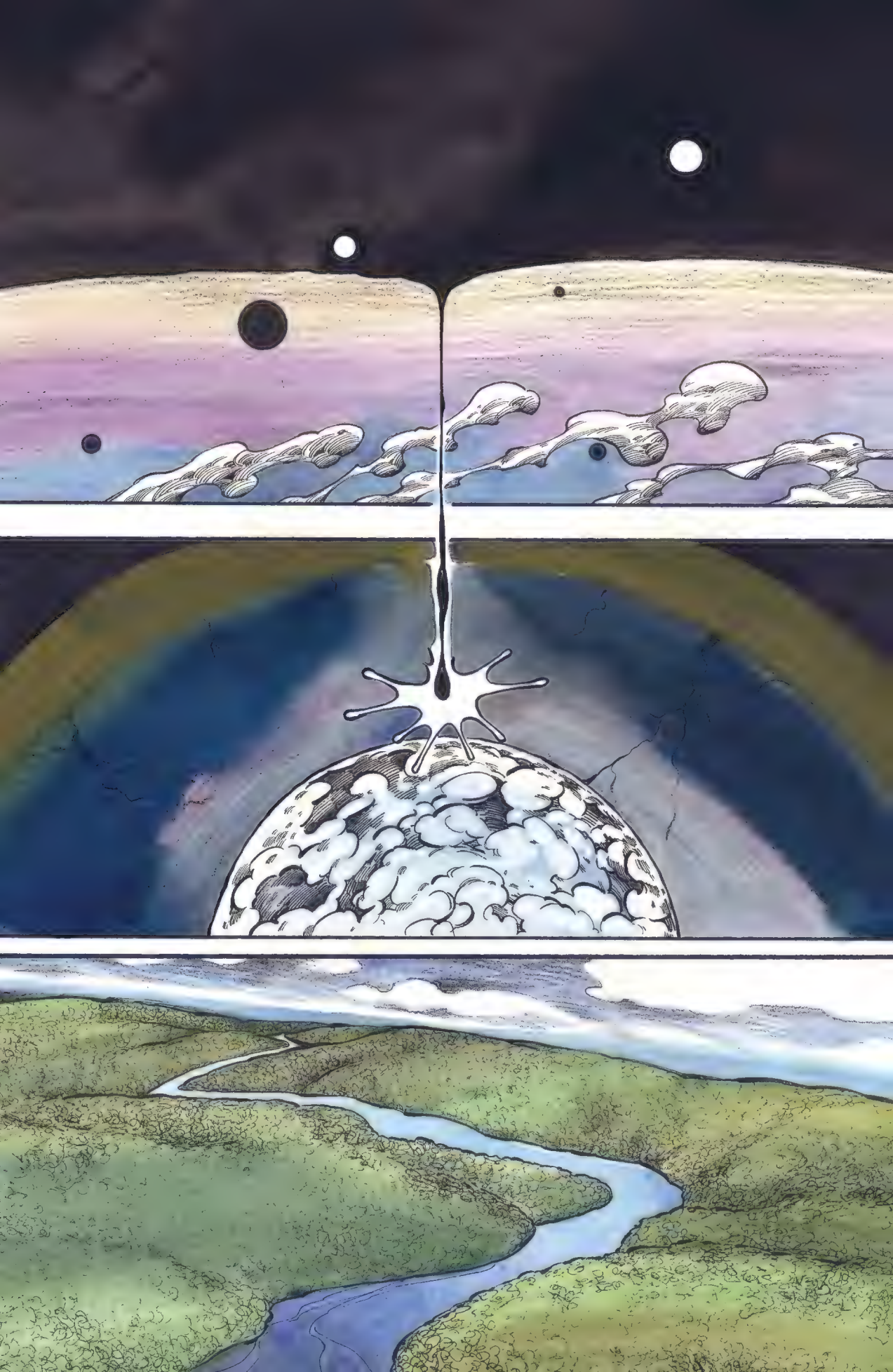
script and art: Ty Templeton

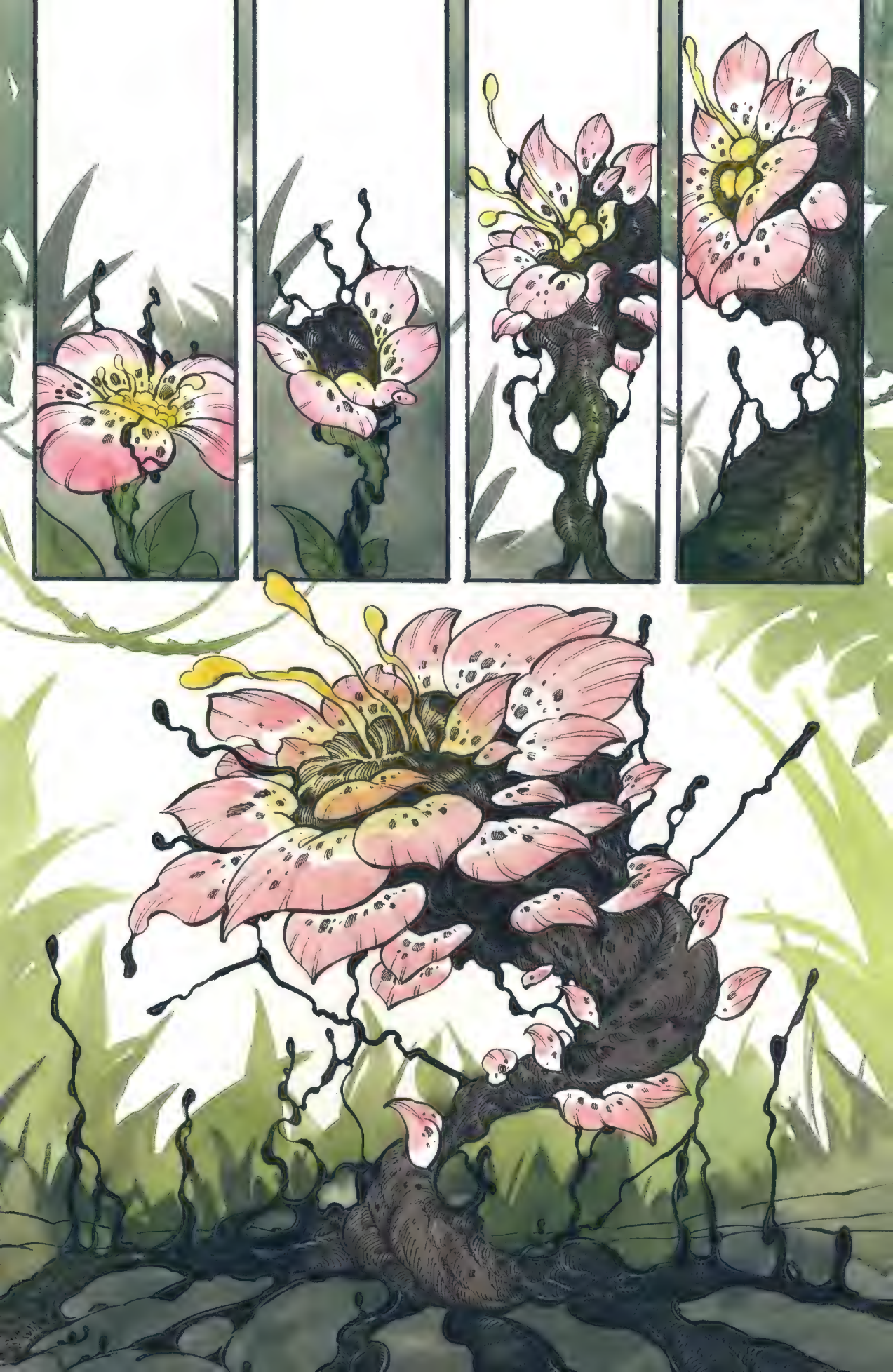
The FAMILY SYMBIOTE

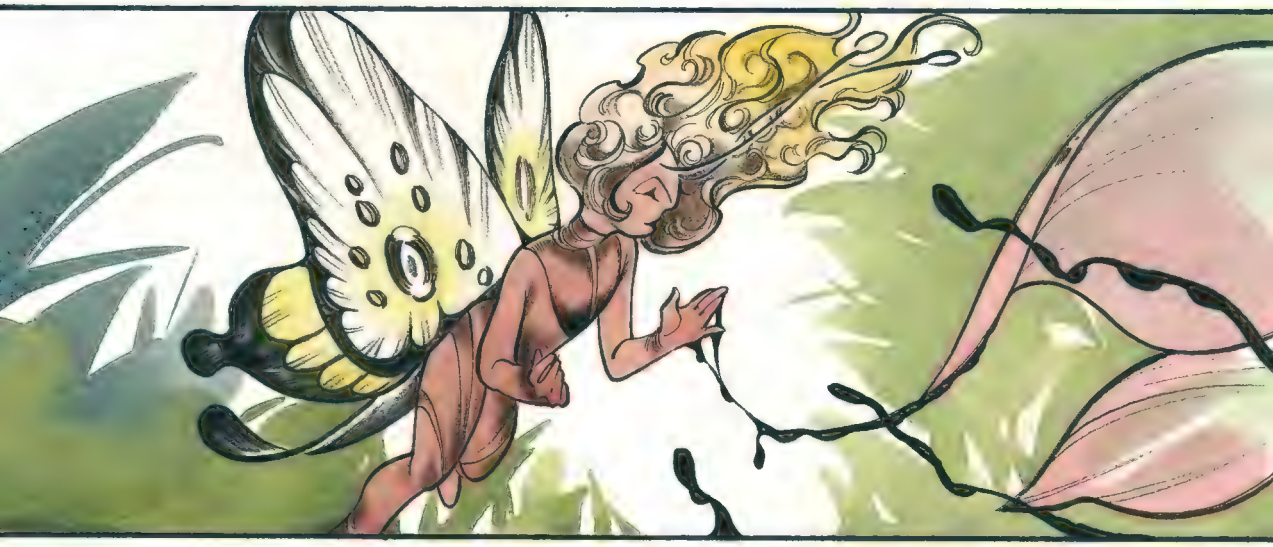


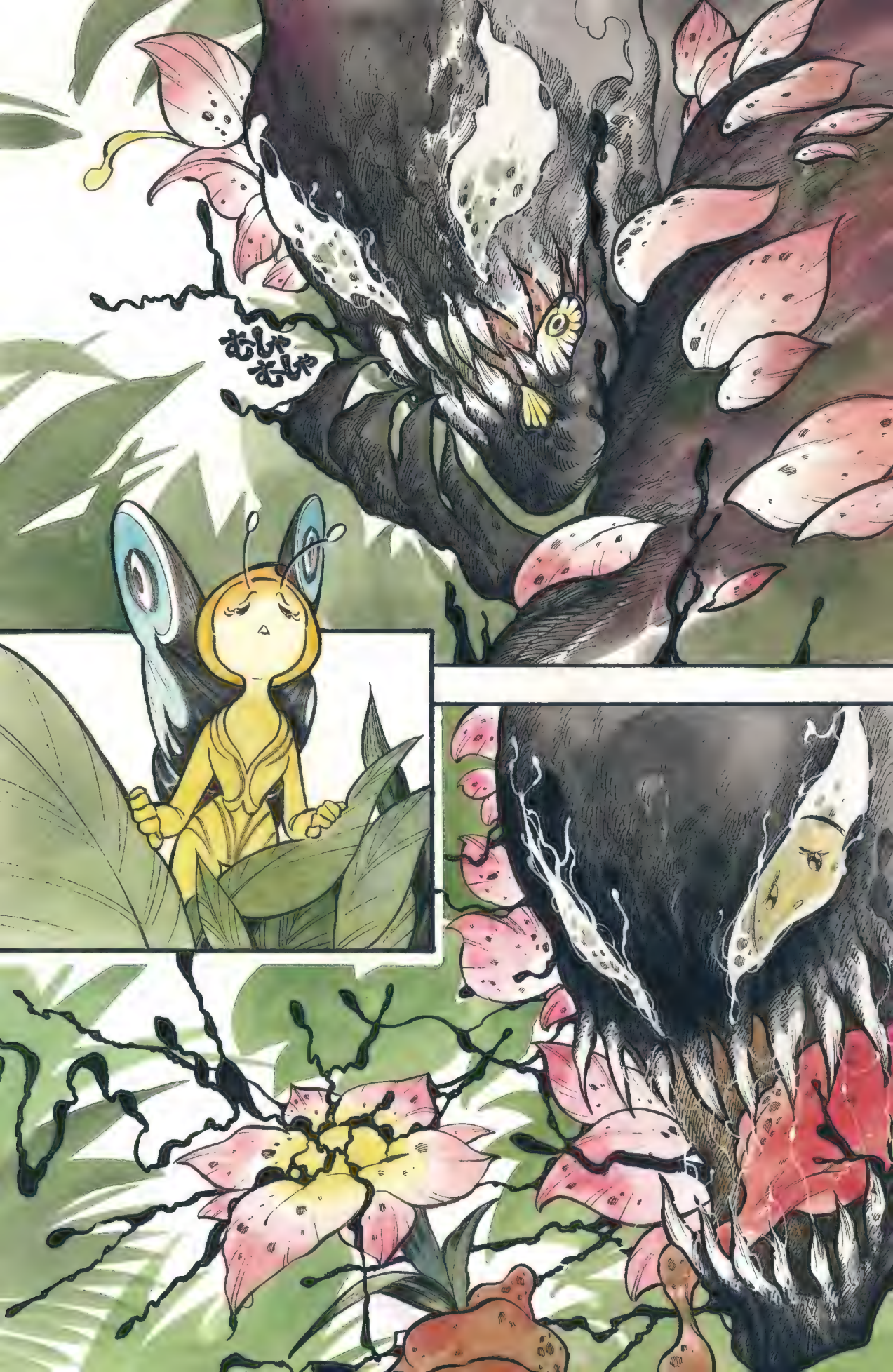
KLYNTAR THE KILLJOYS







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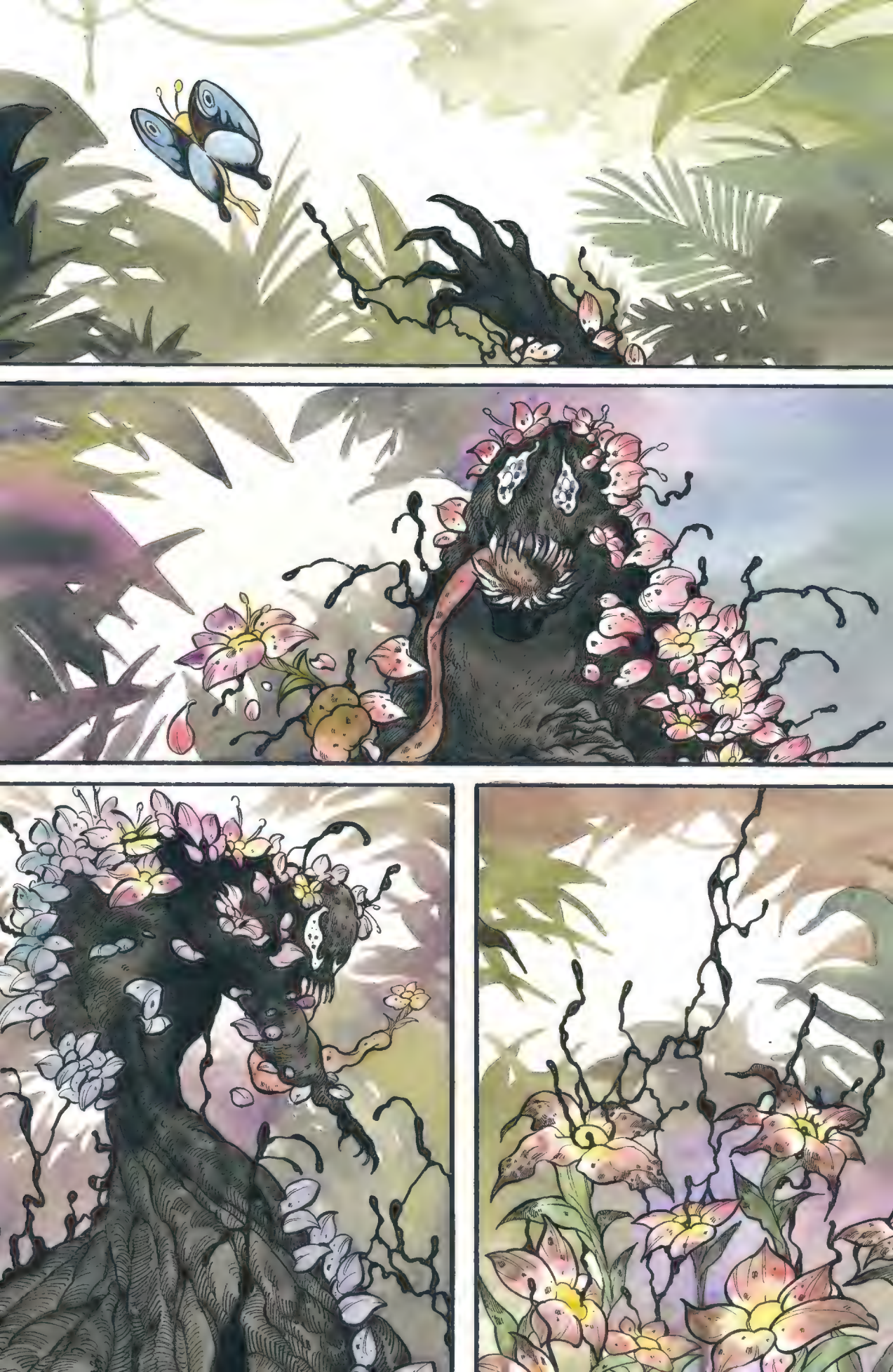
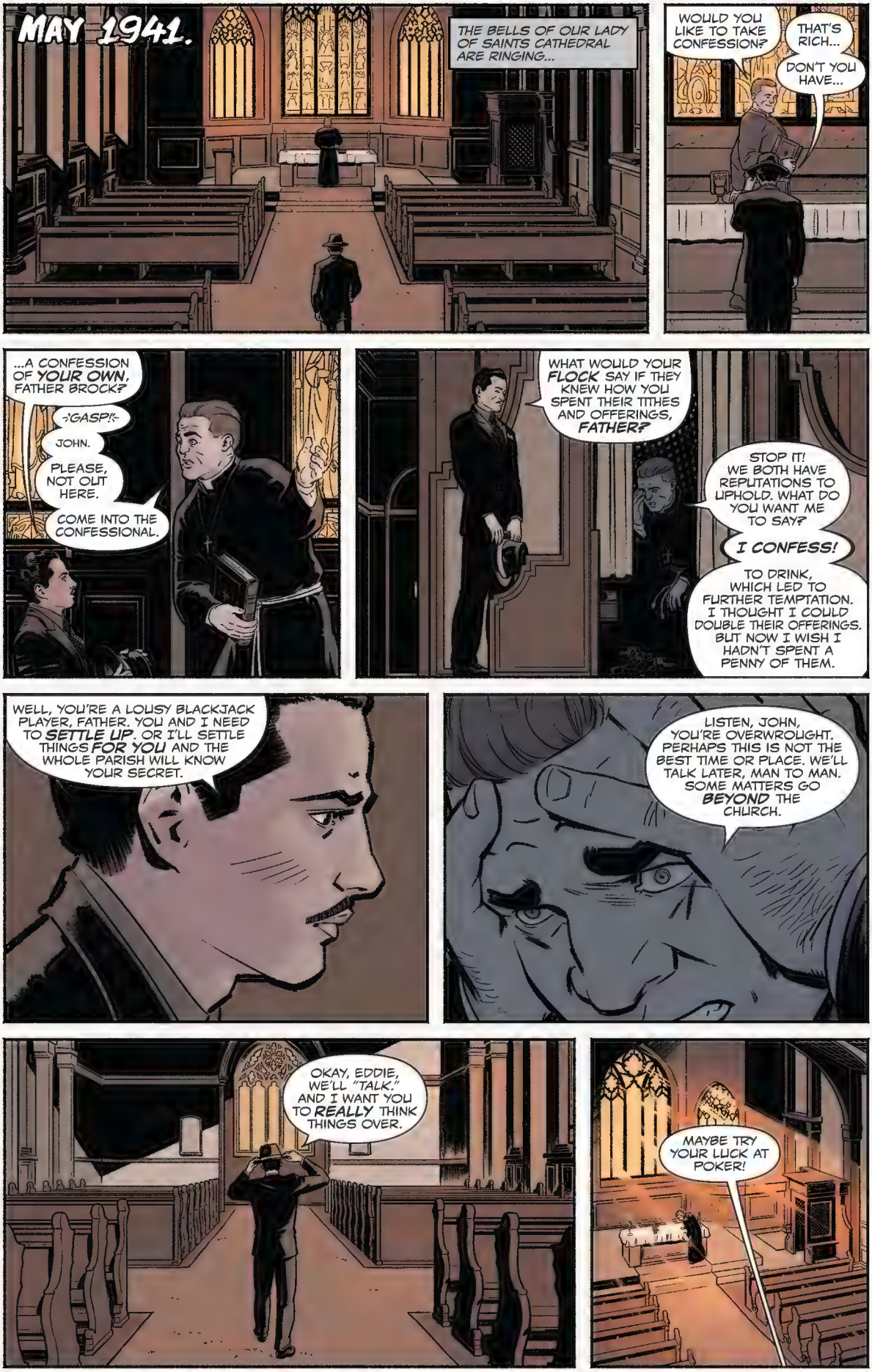



MAY 1941.
THE BELLS OF OUR LADY OF SAINTS CATHEDRAL ARE RINGING...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE CONFESSION?
THAT'S RICH...
DON'T YOU HAVE...
...A CONFESSION OF YOUR OWN, FATHER BROCK?
:GASP!:
JOHN.
PLEASE, NOT OUT HERE.
COME INTO THE CONFESSIONAL.
WHAT WOULD YOUR FLOCK SAY IF THEY KNEW HOW YOU SPENT THEIR TITHES AND OFFERINGS, FATHER?
STOP IT! WE BOTH HAVE REPUTATIONS TO UPHOLD. WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?
I CONFESS!
TO DRINK, WHICH LED TO FURTHER TEMPTATION. I THOUGHT I COULD DOUBLE THEIR OFFERINGS. BUT NOW I WISH I HADN'T SPENT A PENNY OF THEM.
WELL, YOU'RE A LOUSY BLACKJACK PLAYER, FATHER. YOU AND I NEED TO SETTLE UP. OR I'LL SETTLE THINGS FOR YOU AND THE WHOLE PARISH WILL KNOW YOUR SECRET.
LISTEN, JOHN, YOU'RE OVERWROUGHT. PERHAPS THIS IS NOT THE BEST TIME OR PLACE. WE'LL TALK LATER, MAN TO MAN. SOME MATTERS GO BEYOND THE CHURCH.
OKAY, EDDIE, WE'LL "TALK." AND I WANT YOU TO REALLY THINK THINGS OVER.
MAYBE TRY YOUR LUCK AT POKER!

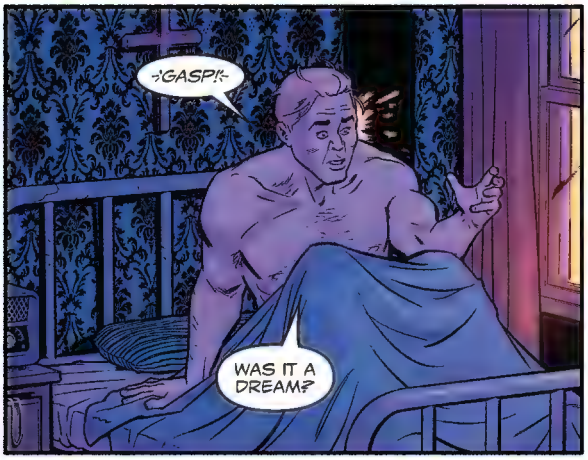
FORGIVE ME, O LORD--I ONLY WISH TO SERVE YOU! I KNOW I'VE SINNED AGAINST YOU. I DON'T KNOW WHY I CARRY THIS GREEDY SIN IN MY HEART. HELP ME, FATHER! SHOW ME THE WAY!
The Song
XXXII
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
WHAT?

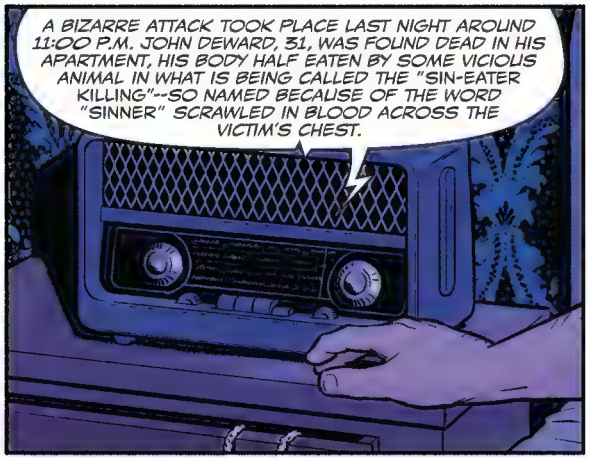
COME TO US, EDDIE. COME TOWARD THE LIGHT.

NYARGH!

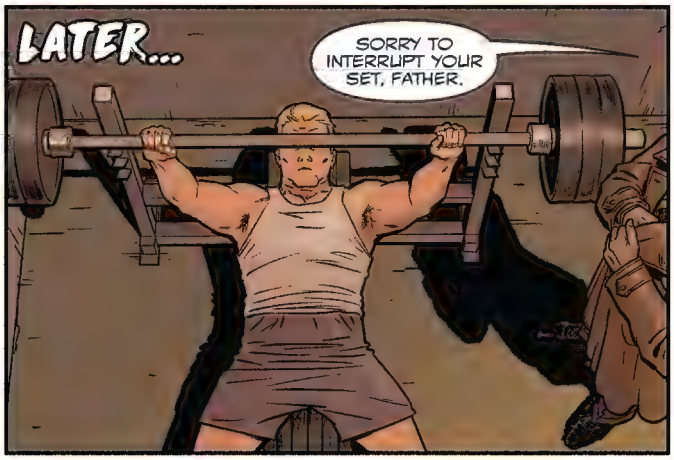
WE HAVE BEEN SET FREE AT LAST! NO MORE DOUBTS. NO MORE HESITATION.

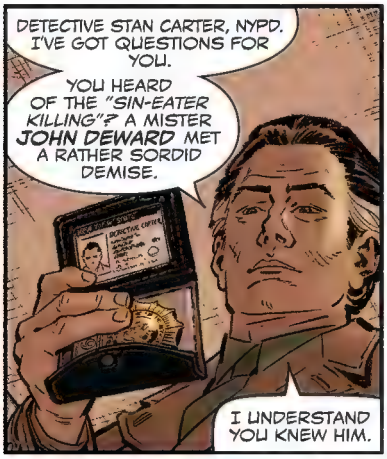
EH?
EDDIE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE? DID YOU CLIMB THE FIRE ESCAPE?
IT'S TIME FOR OUR TALK, JOHN...
SURE. COME INSIDE. I'LL POUR YOU A CUP OF COFFEE. LOOKS LIKE YOU NEED IT.
YOU AND I GO WAY BACK, EDDIE, AND I'M SORRY TO PUT THE PRESSURE ON YOU LIKE THAT. BUT I'M GETTING PRESSURE PUT ON ME TOO.
I'M PART OF A DIFFERENT "WE" NOW, JOHN.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT ME, JOHN.
I HAVE A CALLING, AND NOTHING IS GOING TO STAND IN THE WAY OF THAT!
WHAT IN THE NAME OF GOD?! EDDIE, IS THAT YOU?
YES, WE ARE A SERVANT OF GOD!
BUT OUR NAME ISN'T EDDIE.
OUR NAME IS VENOM!

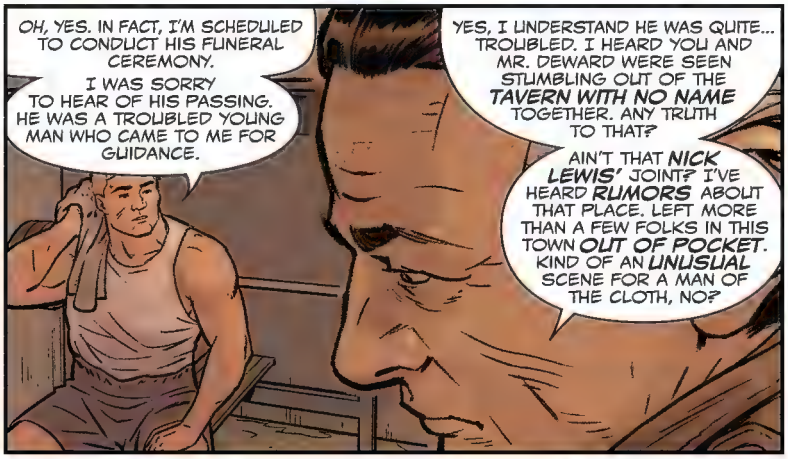

:-)GASP!:-
WAS IT A DREAM?


A BIZARRE ATTACK TOOK PLACE LAST NIGHT AROUND 11:00 P.M. JOHN DEWARD, 31, WAS FOUND DEAD IN HIS APARTMENT, HIS BODY HALF EATEN BY SOME VICIOUS ANIMAL IN WHAT IS BEING CALLED THE "SIN-EATER KILLING"--SO NAMED BECAUSE OF THE WORD "SINNER" SCRAWLED IN BLOOD ACROSS THE VICTIM'S CHEST.

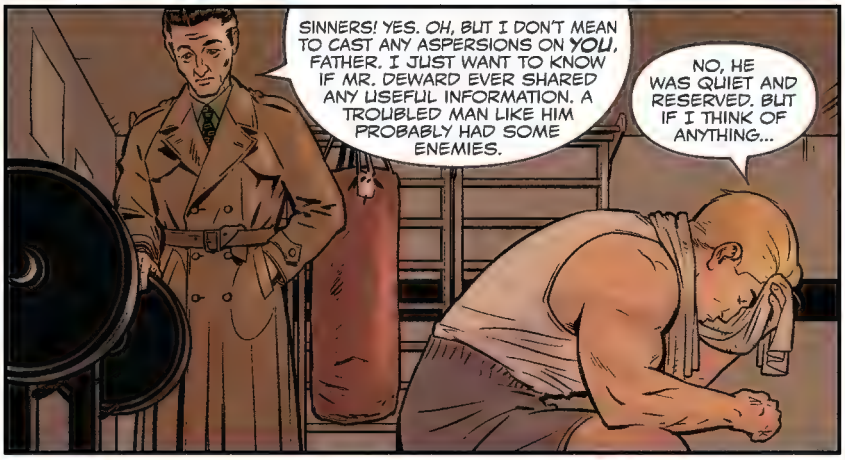
NO, IT CAN'T BE.
BUT, IT IS. IT HAD TO BE DONE. IT WAS REGRETTABLE, OF COURSE. THE DEATHS OF THE INNOCENT ARE ALWAYS REGRETTABLE.
BUT THE INNOCENT MUST SOMETIMES BE SACRIFICED FOR THE GREATER GOOD. FEAR NOT, EDDIE BROCK, FOR I AM WITH YOU. WE ARE ONE.


LATER...
SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR SET, FATHER.


DETECTIVE STAN CARTER, NYPD. I'VE GOT QUESTIONS FOR YOU.
YOU HEARD OF THE "SIN-EATER KILLING"? A MISTER JOHN DEWARD MET A RATHER SORDID DEMISE.
I UNDERSTAND YOU KNEW HIM.


OH, YES. IN FACT, I'M SCHEDULED TO CONDUCT HIS FUNERAL CEREMONY.
I WAS SORRY TO HEAR OF HIS PASSING. HE WAS A TROUBLED YOUNG MAN WHO CAME TO ME FOR GUIDANCE.
YES, I UNDERSTAND HE WAS QUITE... TROUBLED. I HEARD YOU AND MR. DEWARD WERE SEEN STUMBLING OUT OF THE TAVERN WITH NO NAME TOGETHER. ANY TRUTH TO THAT?
AIN'T THAT NICK LEWIS' JOINT? I'VE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT THAT PLACE. LEFT MORE THAN A FEW FOLKS IN THIS TOWN OUT OF POCKET. KIND OF AN UNUSUAL SCENE FOR A MAN OF THE CLOTH, NO?

DID NOT THE LORD HIMSELF WALK AMONG SINNERS?


SINNERS! YES. OH, BUT I DON'T MEAN TO CAST ANY ASPERSIONS ON YOU, FATHER. I JUST WANT TO KNOW IF MR. DEWARD EVER SHARED ANY USEFUL INFORMATION. A TROUBLED MAN LIKE HIM PROBABLY HAD SOME ENEMIES.
NO, HE WAS QUIET AND RESERVED. BUT IF I THINK OF ANYTHING...

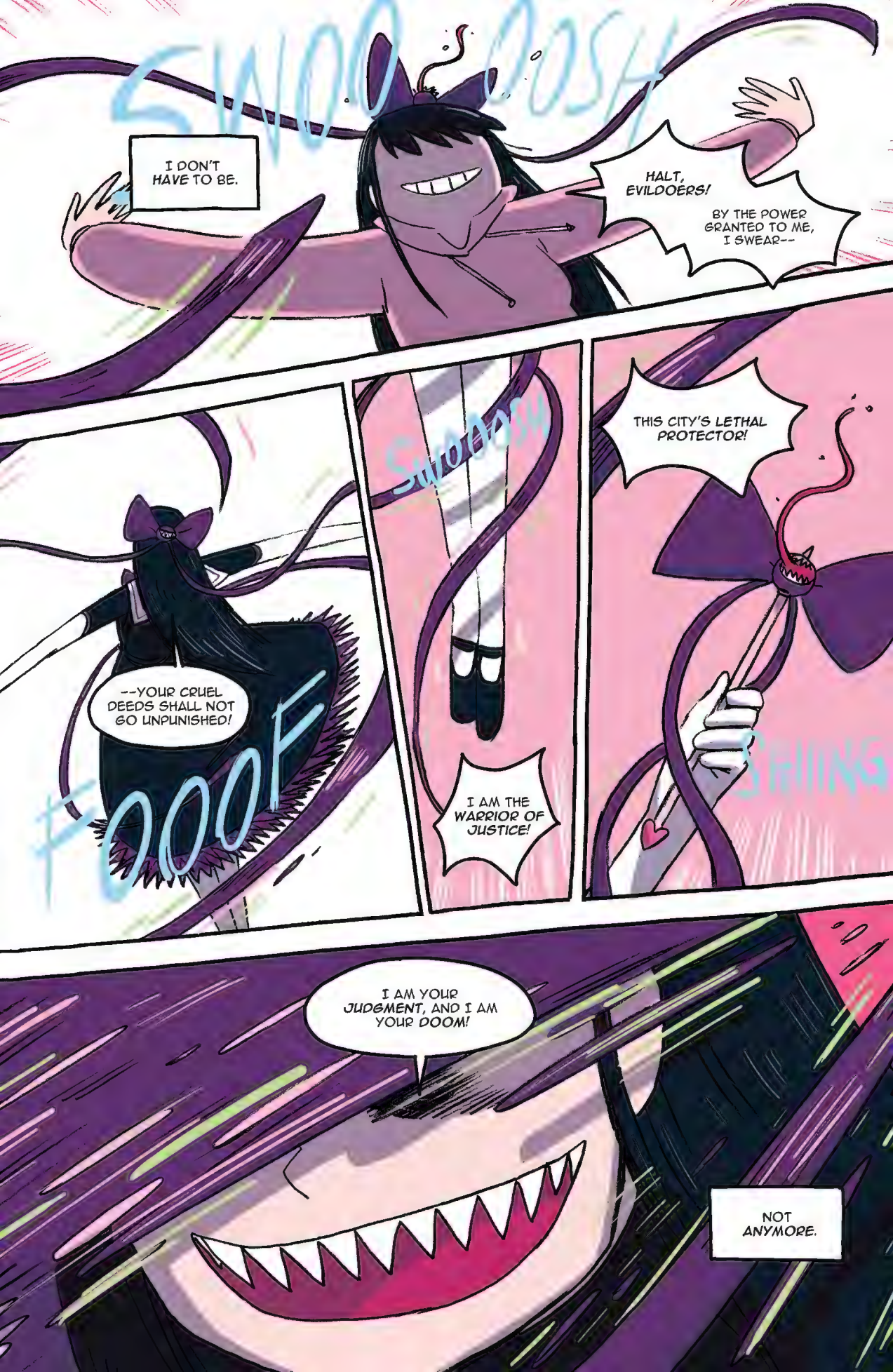
THE NEXT DAY.
"...I'LL LET YOU KNOW."
FATHER, I'D LIKE TO TAKE CONFESSION.
CERTAINLY, MY SON--THE CONFESSIONAL IS THIS WAY.
BLESS ME, FATHER, FOR I HAVE SINNED. MY NAME IS EMIL GREGG. I'VE BEEN HEARING VOICES...
VOICES?
FATHER, HAVE YOU HEARD...
...OF THE SIN-EATER?
A SHORT TIME LATER, IN THE CHURCH OFFICE...
DETECTIVE CARTER? I'VE SWORN AN OATH OF SILENCE... BUT A HIGHER CAUSE DEMANDS I BREAK THAT SILENCE. I MAY HAVE SOME USEFUL INFORMATION...
LATER STILL, AT EMIL GREGG'S HOME...
FATHER BROCK, COME IN! I APPRECIATE YOU COMING TO SEE ME PERSONALLY.
OF COURSE, MY SON. SOME MATTERS GO BEYOND THE CHURCH. I WANTED TO TALK MORE ABOUT THE VOICES YOU'VE BEEN HEARING. THE VOICES THAT CALLED YOU TO ACTION THAT NIGHT. YOU SEE, I TOO AM IN CONTACT WITH A DIVINE VOICE.
THE LORD HAS BESTOWED UPON ME AN INCREDIBLE POWER, HOLY AND TERRIBLE IN ITS ABILITY TO WREAK VENGEANCE. I WISH TO SHARE THAT POWER WITH YOU, THAT IT MAY EASE YOUR SUFFERING.

THIS IS THE ADDRESS FATHER BROCK GAVE US.
KRRRSH
WHAT IN GOD'S NAME?
SHOOT, DAMMIT!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?!
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S THE SAME THING THAT KILLED JOHN DEWARD!
BDUMPH

AFTER HIM!
NO, I NEED YOU! I NEED YOUR DIVINE POWER!!!
EMIL GREGG, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR THE MURDER OF JOHN DEWARD.
YES! I KILLED HIM! I KILLED THAT FILTHY SINNER!!!
THE LORD WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS...
FATHER BROCK? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
REGARDLESS, IT'S JUST AS YOU SAID. LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT OUR MAN--BEAST--WHATEVER THE HELL HE IS. I'VE SEEN SOME THINGS IN MY TIME, BUT NOTHING LIKE THIS. I GUESS YOU MUST HEAR A LOT OF CRAZY THINGS IN YOUR LINE OF WORK THOUGH, EH, FATHER?
YES. WE DO.
THE END.

ST. LUTGARDE'S ACADEMY, LOS ANGELES.
THE WORLD IS A TERRIFYING PLACE.
SPARKLE AND SHINE
Written by Alyssa Wong
Art and Lettering by Ken Niimura
FOR MOST OF MY LIFE, ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS ESCAPE INTO A FANTASY WORLD.
SOMEWHERE I'D NEVER HAVE TO BE SCARED AGAIN.
ELLIE ELLISON!
AH!
YES! PAYING ATTENTION!
SORRY!
HEY, YOU DROPPED THIS.
OF COURSE, REALITY HAS ITS UPSIDES.
OH, TH-THANKS, PARKER.
MMHM. THAT'S A CUTE PEN.
Y'KNOW...YOU CAN BORROW ONE FROM ME ANYTIME.
BRIIIIIIIING
THAT'S THE FINAL BELL SCHOOL'S OVER GOTTA GO BYEEE!
BUT YOU CAN'T EMBARRASS YOURSELF IN FRONT OF A FANTASY, SO...THERE'S THAT.

WOW. GOOD JOB, WARRIOR OF JUSTICE.
SHUT UP!
FIGHTING EVIL BY NIGHT IS ONE THING, BUT TALKING TO PARKER PIPER, THE MOST PERFECT GIRL AT SCHOOL, IS--
--IMPOSSIBLE.
AAAHH!
NO! KELLY!
RUN!
THE WORLD IS A TERRIFYING PLACE.
CRUNCH
AAAAAHHHH!
SLASH
BUT THESE DAYS, I'M NOT SCARED AT ALL.
FEELING HUNGRY?
ALWAYS.


SWOOOOSH
I DON'T HAVE TO BE.
HALT, EVILDOERS!
BY THE POWER GRANTED TO ME, I SWEAR--
--YOUR CRUEL DEEDS SHALL NOT GO UNPUNISHED!
FOOOF
SWOOSH
I AM THE WARRIOR OF JUSTICE!
THIS CITY'S LETHAL PROTECTOR!
SHING
I AM YOUR JUDGMENT, AND I AM YOUR DOOM!
NOT ANYMORE.

WE ARE
NECROKO!

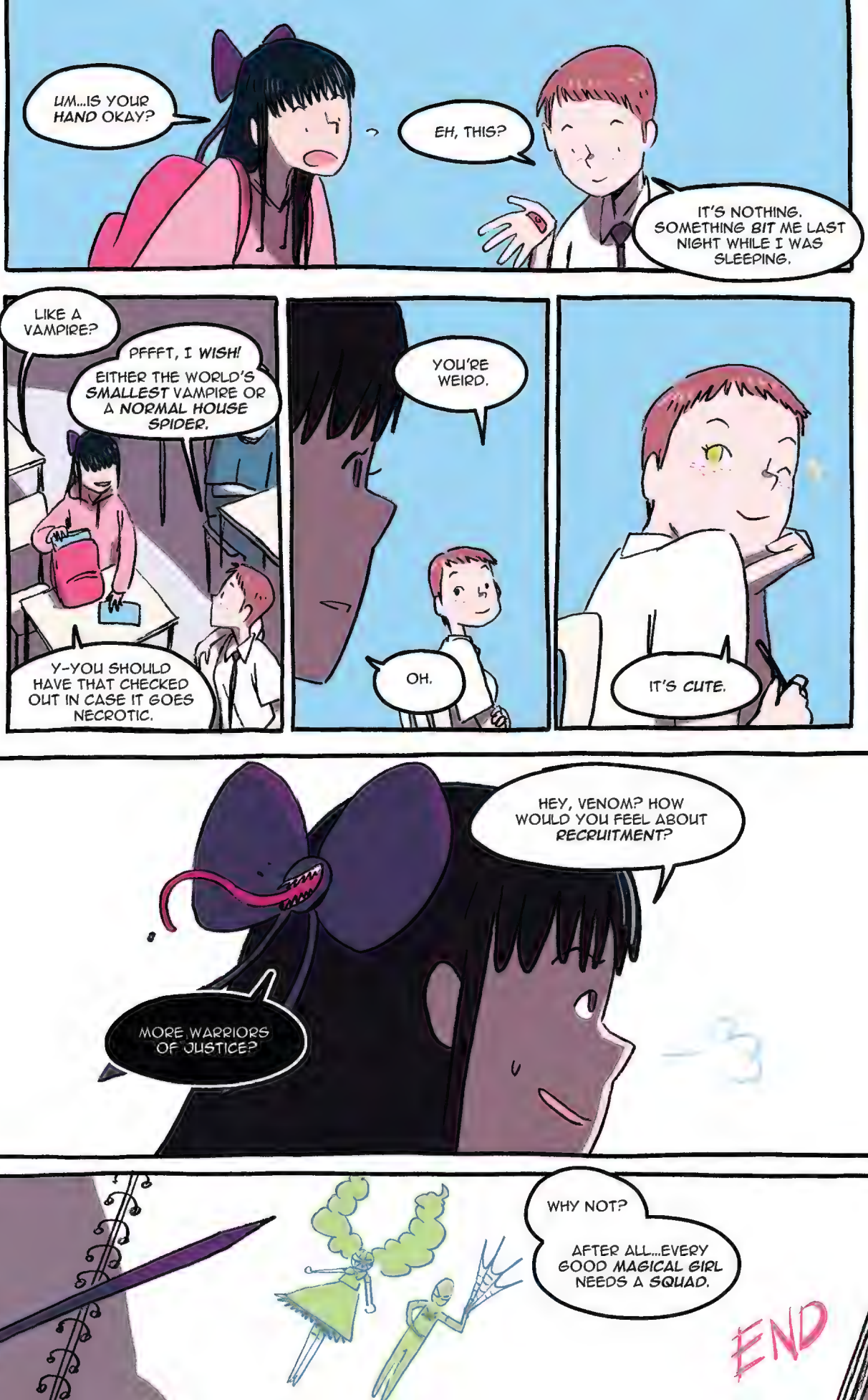
PRETTY WHIP OF JUSTICE!
SWISH
GRAH!
FINDING THAT MAGIC HAIR BOW CHANGED EVERYTHING.
GROOAH!
HONESTLY, THIS HERO STUFF IS GREAT!
SLASH
AAAHHH!
OH MY GOD! WHAT IS THAT THING?!
WHOOOOOSH
IT'S ALMOST ADDICTING.

EVERYONE! GET BACK INSIDE!
PARKER!
WE'RE COMING!
WHOOOOSHOOOOOSH
PRETTY WHIP OF JUSTICE!
CHOMP
PHHHP

KRUNCH
Chomp.
Chomp
Chomp
NO, NO...
PLEASE DON'T...
PLEASE...

THE NEXT DAY...
YAWN AHH, I'M STILL TIRED FROM YESTERDAY...
AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT?
HEY! ELLIE!
COME LOOK AT THIS!
SERIOUSLY, PARKER, THAT'S NUTS!
HOW'D YOU GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO TAKE A PHOTO?
WH-WHAT IS THIS?
YEAH, IT'S TERRIFYING! IT'S LIKE A MAGICAL GIRL GONE WRONG.
I SAW IT RIP A LIZARD-GUY'S ARMS OFF AND BEAT HIM TO DEATH WITH THEM!
THAT THING'S A MONSTER.
NO.
...

PLEASE...
PLEASE DON'T...
DON'T WORRY, CITIZEN!
YOU'RE SAFE NOW!
SHE'S NOT A MONSTER.
SHE SAVED MY LIFE.
I DON'T DO THIS TO BE THANKED--THE WORK IS ITS OWN REWARD.
I LOVE KNOWING I'VE IMPACTED SOMEONE'S LIFE FOREVER.
YEAH, FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE RULES.


UM...IS YOUR HAND OKAY?
EH, THIS?
IT'S NOTHING. SOMETHING BIT ME LAST NIGHT WHILE I WAS SLEEPING.
LIKE A VAMPIRE?
PFFFT, I WISH! EITHER THE WORLD'S SMALLEST VAMPIRE OR A NORMAL HOUSE SPIDER.
Y-YOU SHOULD HAVE THAT CHECKED OUT IN CASE IT GOES NECROTIC.
YOU'RE WEIRD.
OH.
IT'S CUTE.
HEY, VENOM? HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ABOUT RECRUITMENT?
MORE WARRIORS OF JUSTICE?
WHY NOT?
AFTER ALL...EVERY GOOD MAGICAL GIRL NEEDS A SQUAD.
END

5

THE HOME OF KATE BISHOP (AND SOMETIMES JEFF).
I'M TELLING YOU, JEFF, IF YOU KEEP TAKING LOCKJAW TO THE PARK, HE'S NOT GOING TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE SUMMER.
DON'T KNOW WHY I BOTHER LECTURING, YOU'RE JUST GOING TO DO WHAT YOU WANT JUST LIKE AL--
--LLLAAHHHHHHHHHH--

--AHHHHHHHHHHH...
MRRRRR!
JEFF!
SIT!
STAY!
HEEL!
OR SOMETHINNNNG!
YOINK
AHHHH!!!
RUN! EVERYONE SCATTER!
PARK

JEFF! PLEASE STOP!
PLEASE, JEFFREY...
PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME DO THIS...
I CAN'T... I CAN'T DO IT.
?!
MRRRRR?
OH, YOU JUST WANNA PLAY, HUH?
JUST A GIANT, DROOLY, PLAYFUL BABY-- IS THAT YOU?
MRRRR!

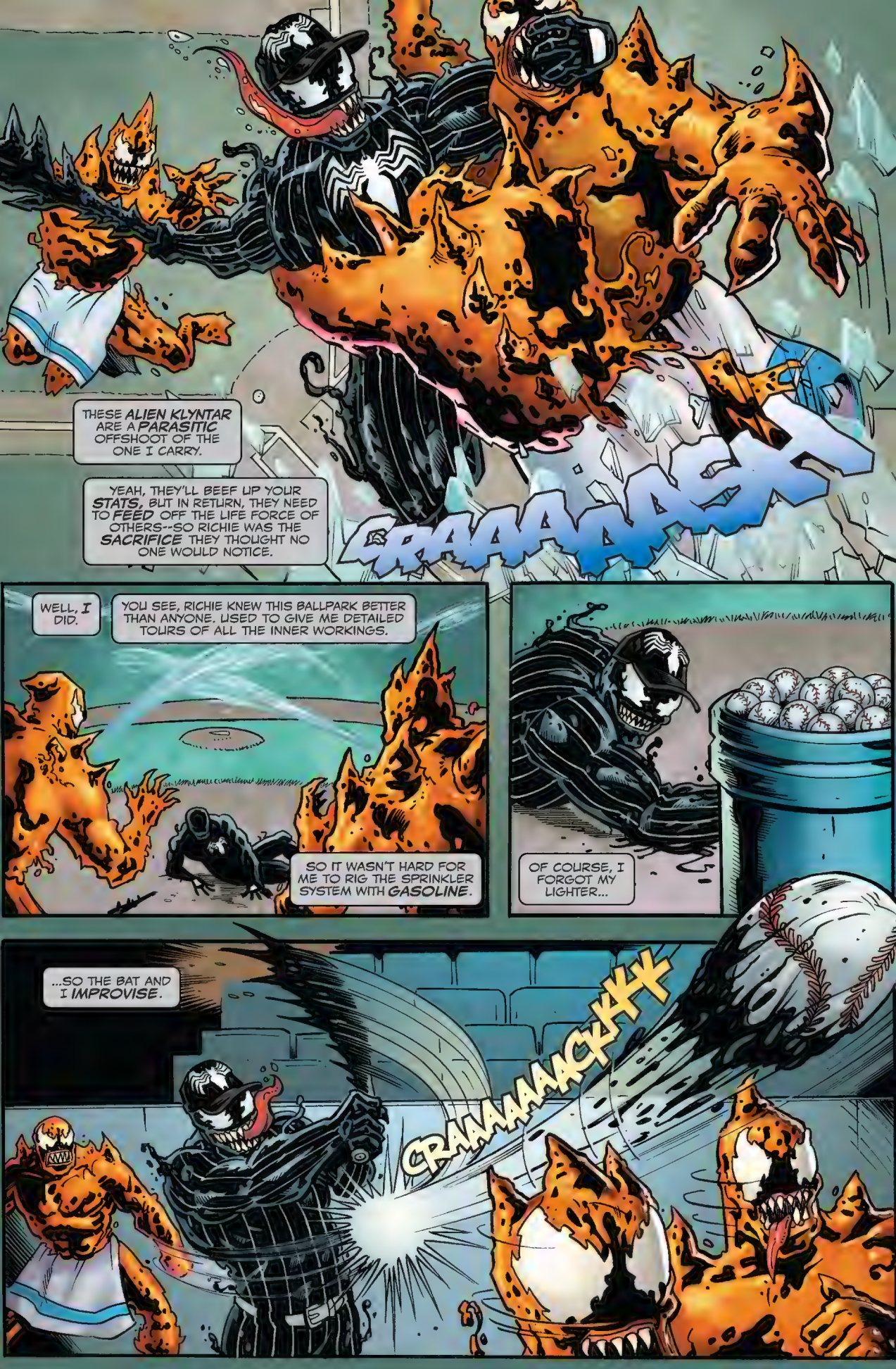
FWIP
UH...WE'RE REALLY MESSING UP THE PARK, JEFF.
MRRRRFF!
I THINK WE BETTER FIGURE OUT HOW TO DE-VENOM YOU, OR THIS WHOLE PARK IS GONNA BE RUINED.
YOU HEAR THAT?
I THINK I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
THE STAGE MANAGER IS A BIG FAN... HE SAYS IT'S OKAY.
DON'T WORRY, THEY'LL LOVE YOU.

TING!
JEFF!
JEFF!
JEFF!
JEFFFFF!
JEFF!
FIN.

I CAN'T REALLY REMEMBER THE EXACT MOMENT I FELL IN LOVE WITH BASEBALL...
HOW ABOUT A HOT DOG?
THANKS, UNCLE BEN, THIS IS THE BEST DAY EVER!
HOT DOGS
...BUT I'M PRETTY SURE MY COUSIN RICHIE WAS BY MY SIDE WHEN IT HAPPENED.
WHERE IS...MY WALLET...?
SORRY, PETEY, IT'S TIME I TOLD YOU ABOUT THE OLD "PARKER LUCK."
COME ON, EDDIE, WE'RE MISSING THE TOP OF THE THIRD!
RICHIE AND I COULDN'T AFFORD TICKETS SO WE USED TO SNEAK INTO GAMES AS KIDS...
...AND FOR NINE STRAIGHT INNINGS, WE FELT IMMORTAL.
MY NAME IS ED BROCK. I'M A SPORTS REPORTER.
BUT INSTEAD OF COVERING PENNANT RACES AND TRADES, TONIGHT, I'M HERE TO SOLVE MY COUSIN'S MURDER.

RICHIE'S PASSION FOR THE GAME LED HIM TO A JOB AT THE STADIUM AS PART OF THE GROUNDS CREW.
LAST WEEK, HIS BODY WAS DISCOVERED OUT IN RIGHT FIELD--A SHRIVELED HUSK, LIKE SOME SORT OF PETRIFIED MUMMY.
TWO DAYS LATER, I GOT A TIP ABOUT SOME OF THE PLAYERS "JUICING."
A POSSIBLE ANSWER TO HOW A TEAM PROJECTED TO BE THE WORST IN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE IS NOW A LOCK TO MAKE THE PLAYOFFS.
YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHAT AN UNEXPLAINABLE DEATH HAS TO DO WITH A DOPING SCANDAL?
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE.
IN FACT...YOU'RE GOING TO DIE HERE!
WELL...YOU'D BE SURPRISED.

I'M NOT. FOR MOST OF MY LIFE, BASEBALL AND THE GREATER MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE HAVE BEEN INTERTWINED.
WHEN I WAS 18, I WATCHED A METEOR FALL FROM THE HEAVENS AND STRIKE A TREE IN MY BACKYARD.
SO I DID THE ONLY REASONABLE THING I COULD THINK OF...
...I MADE IT INTO A BAT.



THESE ALIEN KLYNTAR ARE A PARASITIC OFFSHOOT OF THE ONE I CARRY.

YEAH, THEY'LL BEEF UP YOUR STATS, BUT IN RETURN, THEY NEED TO FEED OFF THE LIFE FORCE OF OTHERS--SO RICHIE WAS THE SACRIFICE THEY THOUGHT NO ONE WOULD NOTICE.

CRAAAAAACK

WELL, I DID.

YOU SEE, RICHIE KNEW THIS BALLPARK BETTER THAN ANYONE. USED TO GIVE ME DETAILED TOURS OF ALL THE INNER WORKINGS.

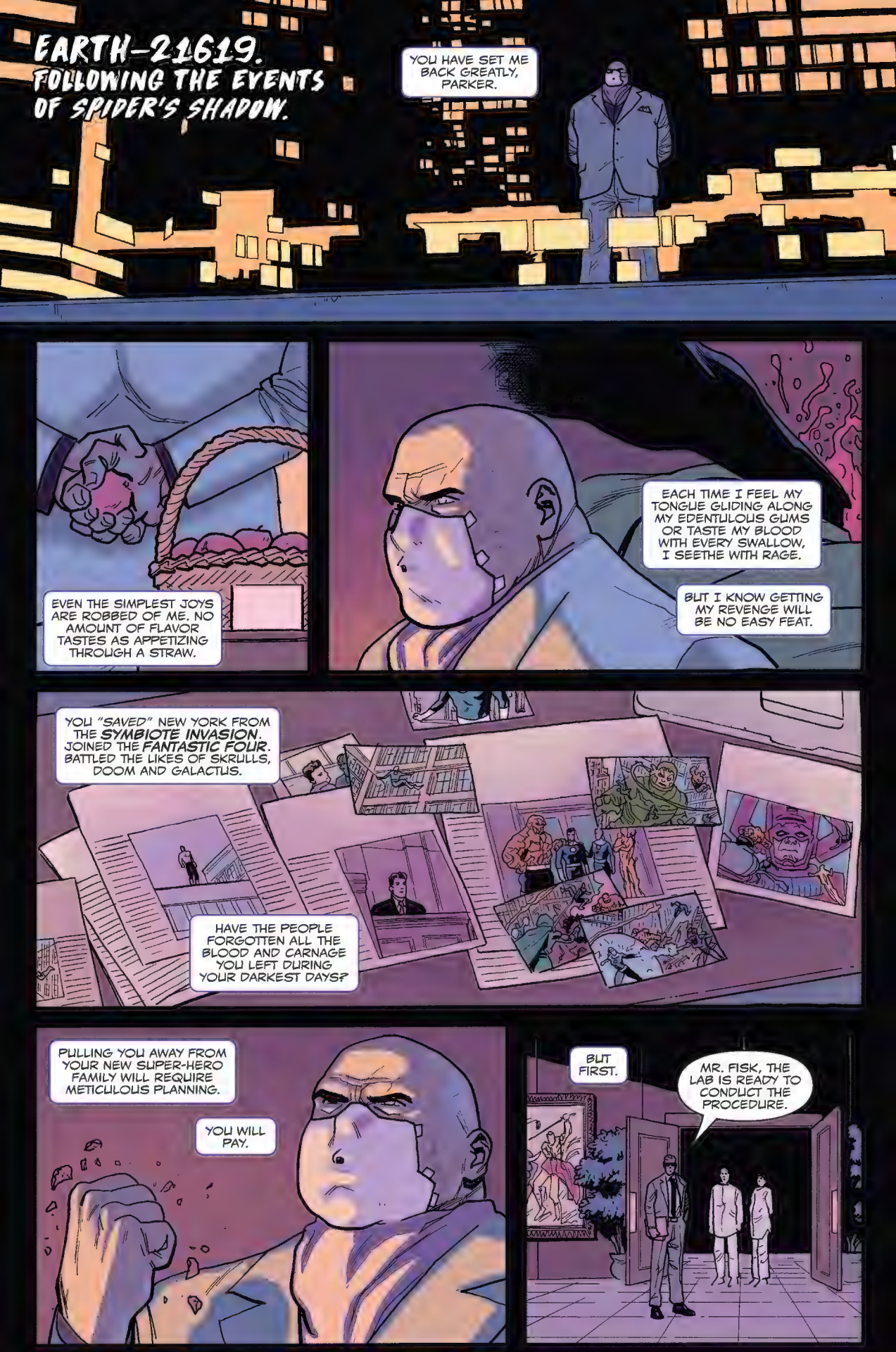
SO IT WASN'T HARD FOR ME TO RIG THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM WITH GASOLINE.

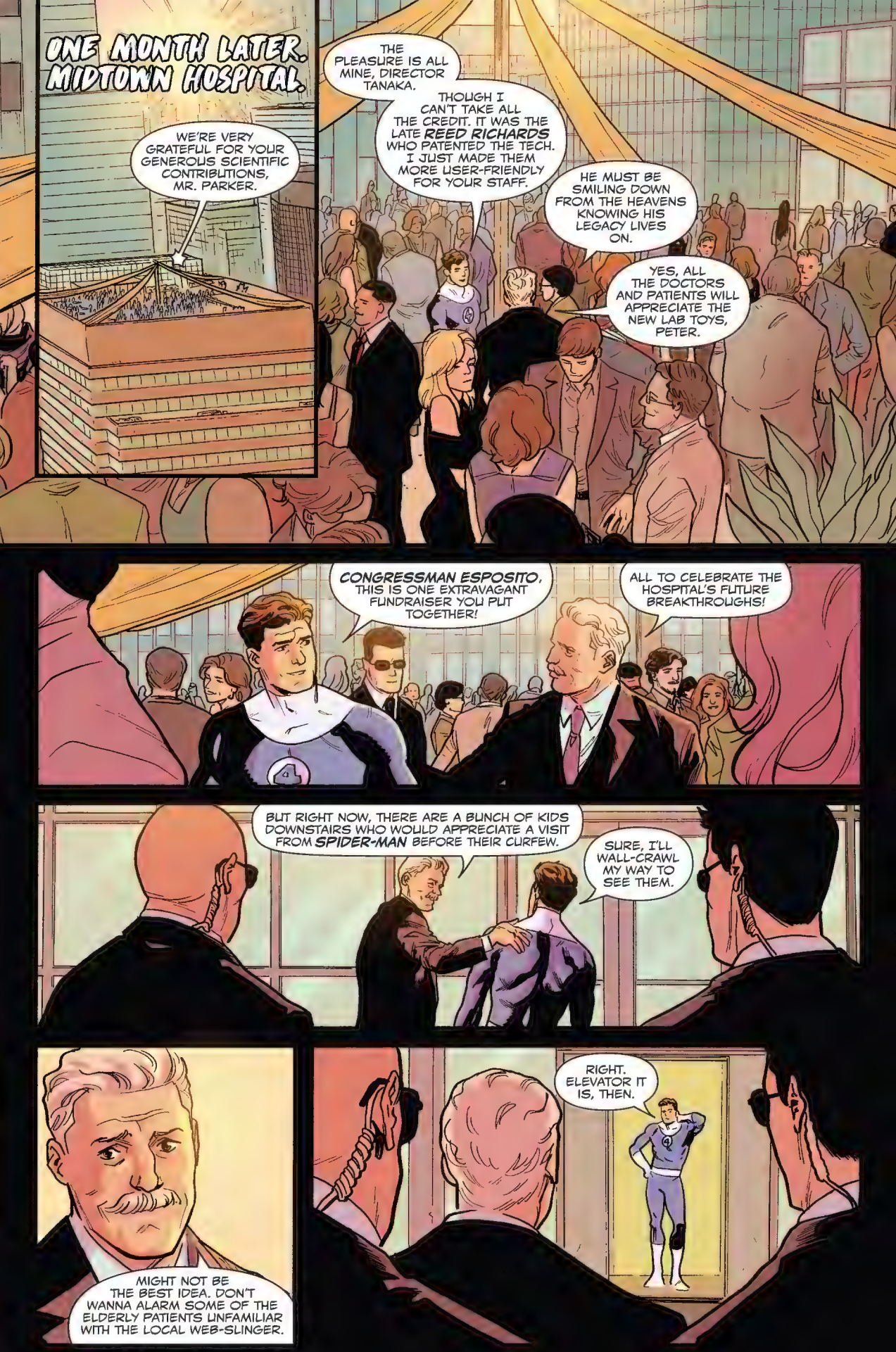
OF COURSE, I FORGOT MY LIGHTER...

...SO THE BAT AND I IMPROVISE.

CRAAAAAACKKKK

ASK ANY FAN.
YOU CAN LOVE BASEBALL WITH EVERYTHING YOU GOT, BUT IT SURE AS HELL DOESN'T ALWAYS LOVE YOU BACK.
RICHIE LEARNED THAT THE HARD WAY...
SPRAAAKKK
...NOW SO HAVE THE PLAYERS WHO KILLED HIM.
SHRIIIEEEEEK!
CLAP. CLAP. CLAP. CLAP.
BRAVO. VERY IMPRESSIVE. NOW TELL ME...
...HOW'D YOU LIKE TO GET CALLED UP TO THE BIG LEAGUES?
TO BE CONTINUED IN DEATH OF THE VENOMVERSE...


EARTH-21619.
FOLLOWING THE EVENTS OF SPIDER'S SHADOW.
YOU HAVE SET ME BACK GREATLY, PARKER.
EVEN THE SIMPLEST JOYS ARE ROBBED OF ME. NO AMOUNT OF FLAVOR TASTES AS APPETIZING THROUGH A STRAW.
EACH TIME I FEEL MY TONGUE GLIDING ALONG MY EDENTULOUS GUMS OR TASTE MY BLOOD WITH EVERY SWALLOW, I SEETHE WITH RAGE.
BUT I KNOW GETTING MY REVENGE WILL BE NO EASY FEAT.
YOU "SAVED" NEW YORK FROM THE SYMBIOTE INVASION. JOINED THE FANTASTIC FOUR. BATTLED THE LIKES OF SKRULLS, DOOM AND GALACTUS.
HAVE THE PEOPLE FORGOTTEN ALL THE BLOOD AND CARNAGE YOU LEFT DURING YOUR DARKEST DAYS?
PULLING YOU AWAY FROM YOUR NEW SUPER-HERO FAMILY WILL REQUIRE METICULOUS PLANNING.
YOU WILL PAY.
BUT FIRST.
MR. FISK, THE LAB IS READY TO CONDUCT THE PROCEDURE.


ONE MONTH LATER. MIDTOWN HOSPITAL.
WE'RE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GENEROUS SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS, MR. PARKER.
THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE, DIRECTOR TANAKA.
THOUGH I CAN'T TAKE ALL THE CREDIT. IT WAS THE LATE REED RICHARDS WHO PATENTED THE TECH. I JUST MADE THEM MORE USER-FRIENDLY FOR YOUR STAFF.
HE MUST BE SMILING DOWN FROM THE HEAVENS KNOWING HIS LEGACY LIVES ON.
YES, ALL THE DOCTORS AND PATIENTS WILL APPRECIATE THE NEW LAB TOYS, PETER.
CONGRESSMAN ESPOSITO, THIS IS ONE EXTRAVAGANT FUNDRAISER YOU PUT TOGETHER!
ALL TO CELEBRATE THE HOSPITAL'S FUTURE BREAKTHROUGHS!
BUT RIGHT NOW, THERE ARE A BUNCH OF KIDS DOWNSTAIRS WHO WOULD APPRECIATE A VISIT FROM SPIDER-MAN BEFORE THEIR CURFEW.
SURE, I'LL WALL-CRAWL MY WAY TO SEE THEM.
MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST IDEA. DON'T WANNA ALARM SOME OF THE ELDERLY PATIENTS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE LOCAL WEB-SLINGER.
RIGHT. ELEVATOR IT IS, THEN.

I GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
WELL, PETER. LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE FALLEN INTO ANOTHER TRAP.
HMM...I WONDER WHO'S BEHIND THIS.
DO I KNOW ANY OTHER EVIL DOCTORS WHO WANT ME DEAD?
WHOOOOOOM
PETER PARKER, YOU'VE FINALLY ARRIVED.
I TAKE IT THAT CONGRESSMAN ESPOSITO DELIVERED A CONVINCING PERFORMANCE.
FISK.
ESPOSITO CAN BE CLUMSY. HE LEFT NATO DOCUMENTS AT THE HOME OF HIS MISTRESS...WITH TIES TO HYDRA. THANKFULLY FOR HIM, I KNOW HYDRA.
EXIT

I SEE YOU FOUND A REALLY GOOD PLASTIC SURGEON.
YOU ARE A HARD MAN TO GET A HOLD OF...ALWAYS IN THE COMPANY OF YOUR ILLUSTRIOUS NEW FAMILY.
TO AVOID ANY UNWANTED ENTANGLEMENTS, MY TEAM OF SCIENTISTS SENT OUT A DISTRESS SIGNAL FROM THE NEGATIVE ZONE TO KEEP THEM OCCUPIED.
DID YOU THINK YOU WOULD GO WITH IMPUNITY? AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO ME?
FISK, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I WAS A DIFFERENT PERSON BACK THEN.
I ADMIT, I WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL AND DIDN'T EVEN KNOW MY OWN STRENGTH MOST OF THE TIME.
BUT EVEN IF I DIDN'T HAVE THE SYMBIOTE...
...I'D STILL LEAVE YOU WITH TWO BLACK EYES.
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. THE SHOE IS ON THE OTHER FOOT NOW.
I'M ABOUT TO DO MUCH WORSE TO NEW YORK'S BELOVED SUPER HERO. I WILL SAVOR EVERY MINUTE MANGLING YOUR BODY INTO TAINTED TARTARE...

....AS KING PAIN!
THE VENOM SYMBIOTE!
I THOUGHT I GOT RID OF EVERY SINGLE OUNCE OF YOU!
RRAGGHHHH!

LET'S LIGHTEN THE MOOD. WANNA HEAR A JOKE?
KNOCK!
KNOCK!
THE PUNCH LINE IS YOUR DEATH!
I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S NOT HOW IT GOES...
THE ONLY THING I APPRECIATED ABOUT YOUR DARK-SUITED DAYS...
...YOU TOLD LESS QUIPS.
SHINK
SHINK
PRAY THAT YOUR SKIN'S TOUGHER THAN VIBRANIUM.
GREAT...HE MUST'VE BLOCKED ALL THE EXITS.

NOT THAT I'M CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR WELL-BEING, BUT...
...THAT SYMBIOTE WILL RIP YOU APART. IT'LL CHANGE YOU FOREVER THE LONGER YOU'RE IN IT.
SPOKEN LIKE THE WEAKER HOST.
NO SENSE TRYING TO TALK YOURSELF OUT OF THIS.
YOU'RE TRAPPED, LITTLE SPIDER.
NOT MUCH HERE THAT CAN HELP ME TAKE DOWN FISK.
NEED TO TIRE HIM OUT BEFORE I CAN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE--
THAT'S ENOUGH!
AGGHHHH!
DOOOOSH!

THIS IS WHERE YOU DIE, PARKER!
WHEN I'M DONE WITH YOU, NOT EVEN A FORENSIC TEAM WILL FIND AN OUNCE OF YOUR REMAINS.
YOUR HEAD FEELS VERY RIPE...
...FISK...
...THIS IS GETTING... TOO...
I WON'T DENY IT, PETER...
...UHH...
...YOU WILL BE MISSED.

UGGHK!
OOOOO... I CAUGHT ME A BIG, MEATY, JUICY ONE!
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THERE WAS A RED ONE.
THERE'S MY OPENING!
JUST BUY ME ENOUGH TIME TO REGROUP WITH MY TEAMMATES, NEW GUY.
GOTTA SAVE SUE, JOHNNY AND BEN.
...I ALMOST HAD HIM...YOU LET HIM GO...
BUT YOU TOOK YOUR SWEET ##%$ TIME, FISK!
ANYWAY, IT'S YOU WHO I REALLY WANT

OHHH... THERE'S THAT FLESHY, BALD HEAD I KNOW.
...WHO...?
IT'S CARNAGE NOW SHHH...I PROMISE THIS WILL BE QUICK.
SPLOOSH
EVERY FIBER OF YOU FEELS DENSE. A SHAME IT DIDN'T SAVE YOU FROM A GOOD 'OL'-FASHIONED IMPALING.
BUT, DON'T WORRY, MAYBE WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER... I'LL SWITCH TO DESTROYING ALL THE SPIDER-MEN!
END.

NEO-NEW YORK. 20 YEARS AFTER FIRST CONTACT.
COMMANDER PARKER, TARGETS SIX HUNDRED METERS OUT AND CLOSING.
WE LOST CONTACT FROM UNIT-2 AND THE WESTERN ADVANCEMENT. POWER LOSS IN EIGHT TO SEVENTEEN.
DIVERT POWER FROM WEAPON SYSTEMS TO UNIT-1. OUR PRIORITY IS GETTING HIM INTO THE FIGHT.
COMMANDER MAYDAY, PARKER.
YES, MA'AM. UNIT-1 READY FOR LAUNCH IN THIRTY SECONDS.
PATCH ME IN TO HIS COMMS.
THOMPSON! YOU READY?
YES, MA'AM.
THIS BASE CANNOT FALL--DO YOU UNDERSTAND? THIS IS THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE FOR THE EASTERN SEABOARD. IF THESE THINGS ARE ALLOWED INLAND TO BREED, THERE WILL BE NO STOPPING THEM.
WHIRRRR
WE WILL NOT LET THAT HAPPEN.

FLASH THOMPSON, LAUNCHING!
WHOOSH
DAILY BUGLE
LEWIS AVE
SURFACE BREAK IN THREE...
RATION
...TWO...
ROAR.
RUBBLE
...ONE!
VISUAL ON ALIEN HOSTILES CONFIRMED.
PERMISSION TO ENGAGE?
SKRRRRREEEE
PERMISSION GRANTED.

THOMPSON ENGAGING.
BLADDADADADA
DESTRUCTION OF ALIEN HOSTILE'S SYMBOCORE CONFIRMED!
HOSTILE ONE DOWN. MOVING TO NEXT TARGET!

GUN EMPTY.
YES.
ENGAGE CLOSE-COMBAT PARAMETERS?
YES.
DAMN, HE'S STRONG! NEED MORE POWER!
COME ON, COME ON, COME ON.
THRUST LIMITERS DISENGAGED.
FOOOOM
UNIT-1, GIVE ME EVERYTHING YOU HAVE JUST THIS ONE LAST TIME!

RIPPPP
TAKE THE BAIT, YOU BASTARD! ALL I NEED...
GAAAAGH!
...IS AN OPENING!
NO GOOD! THE SYMBOCORE IS STILL INTACT! HOSTILE IS STILL 85% EFFECTIVE!
35% POWER FAILURE. REMAINING TIME UNTIL COMPLETE POWER FAILURE: 90 SECONDS.
THEN WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO END THIS NOW.
JUST YOU AND ME, UNIT-1.
ROAR!
YOU AND ME UNTIL THE VERY END!

YOU NEED TO BRING THAT THING DOWN NOW, THOMPSON!
WE'RE WORKING ON IT!
TWO HUNDRED METERS DUE SOUTH. GET THERE AND I CAN HELP YOU DO JUST THAT.
SIZZLE
COPY THAT.
ROAR!
WARNING: ENERGY SPIKE FROM THE HOSTILE DETECTED.
MAYDAY, WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR?!
LAUNCH THAT CARE PACKAGE NOW!
Y-YES, MA'AM. BREAKING SURFACE!
ON YOUR LEFT, THOMPSON!
I SEE IT!
HIGH-YIELD ENERGY ATTACK INCOMING.
NOW, UNIT-1!

LET'S RETURN THE FAVOR!

RWAW

DESTRUCTION OF SYMBOCORE CONFIRMED!

WHZAAAAM

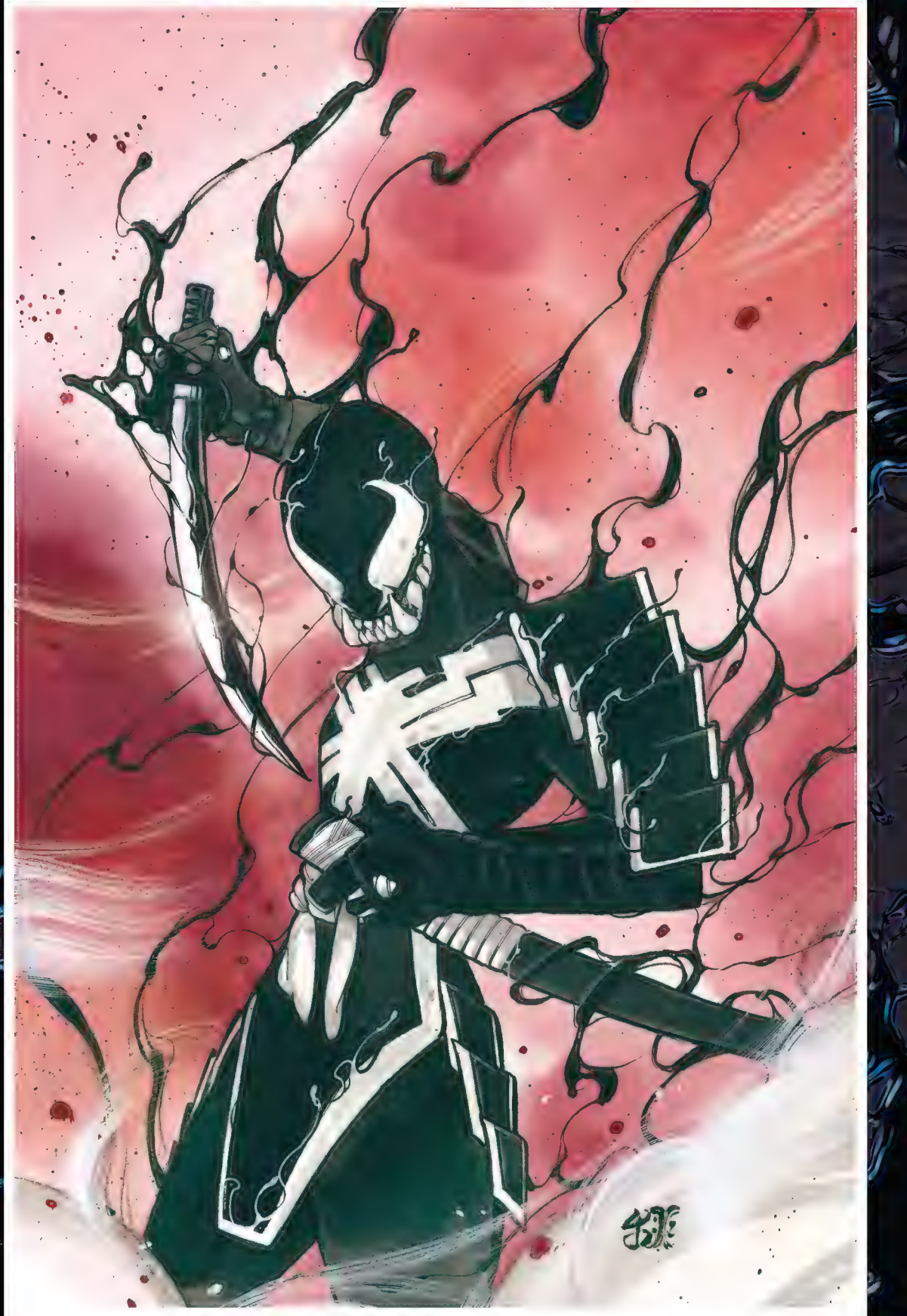
SIGNAL LOSS CONFIRM-- ZzZzzzZT.

BOOOOM

WARNING, INCOMING. BRACE FOR HEAT DEFLECTION.

--zXXz--E IN, THOMPSON. RE--xxZx--EAT COME IN, THO--zXzx--SON.
GET ME A COMM-LINK NOW, DAMMIT!
THIS IS FLASH. I'M FINE, BUT COMMS ARE SHOT. UNIT-1 IS A TOTAL LOSS. I'M GONNA NEED PICKUP. THOMPSON OUT.
HEARD, THOMPSON. MAINTAIN YOUR POSITION.
KAKICK
YEAH, YEAH.
WE'RE GETTING TOO OLD FOR THIS, UNIT-1, OLD FRIEND.
MAYDAY, HOW LONG WILL RESCUE TAKE?
UNIT-3 AND UNIT-4 ARE EN ROUTE.
COPY THAT. PERHAPS I'LL SIT A SPELL.

THAT WAS ONE HELL OF A FIGHT, HUH, OLD-TIMER? THINKIN' GUYS LIKE US HAVE JUST ABOUT NEARED THE END OF THE ROAD.
YOU CAN REST EASY NOW, PETE. AND I'M LOOKIN' FORWARD TO BEING RIGHT THERE WITH YOU.
STOMP! STOMP!
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE MY RIDE'S HERE, OLD FRIEND. SO I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO FINISH THIS TALK LATER.
FLASH THOMPSON BROKE HIS TOYS AND HAS TO BEG FOR A RIDE? GUESS SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE.
WHAT CAN I SAY, GWEN...
...I HAVE TO KEEP YOU TWO ROOKIES ENTERTAINED ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.
END.



PEACH MOMOKO
#1 VARIANT

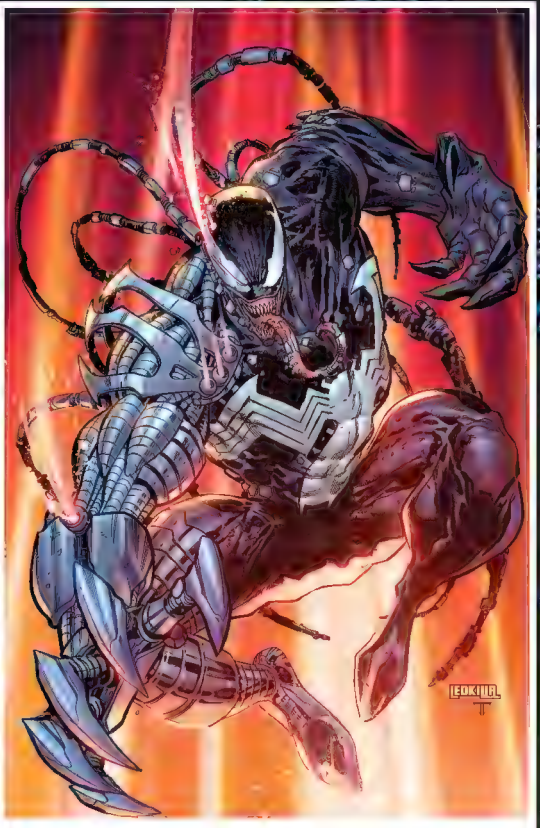
ROD REIS
#1 VARIANT

KEN LASHLEY & JUAN FERNANDEZ
#1 SYMBIOTE VARIANT

RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER
& DAVE McCRAIG
#1 THE OTHER VARIANT

SKOTTIE YOUNG
#1 VARIANT

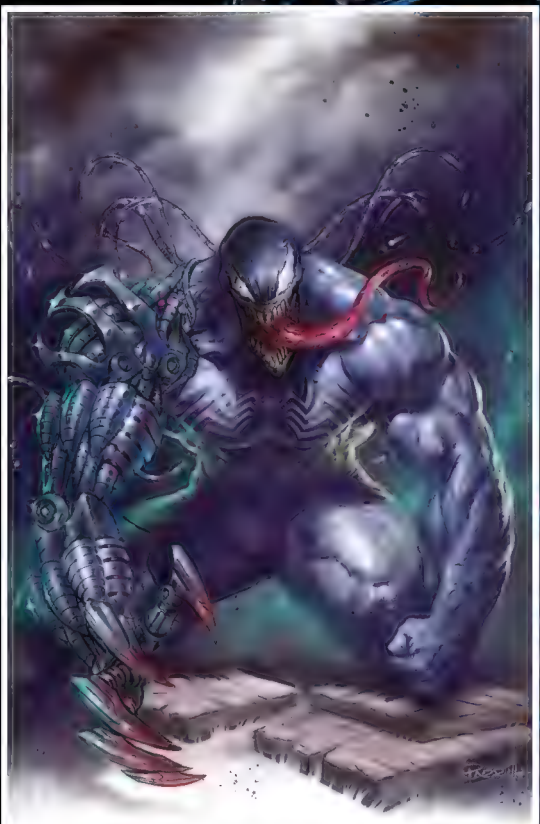
INHYUK LEE
#2 VARIANT



KEN LASHLEY & JUAN FERNANDEZ
#2 VARIANT

PEACH MOMOKO
#2 VARIANT

RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER & DAVE McCAIG
#2 THE OTHER VARIANT



LUCIO PARRILLO
#3 VARIANT

KEN LASHLEY & JUAN FERNANDEZ
#3 SYMBIOTE VARIANT

PEACH MOMOKO
#3 VARIANT

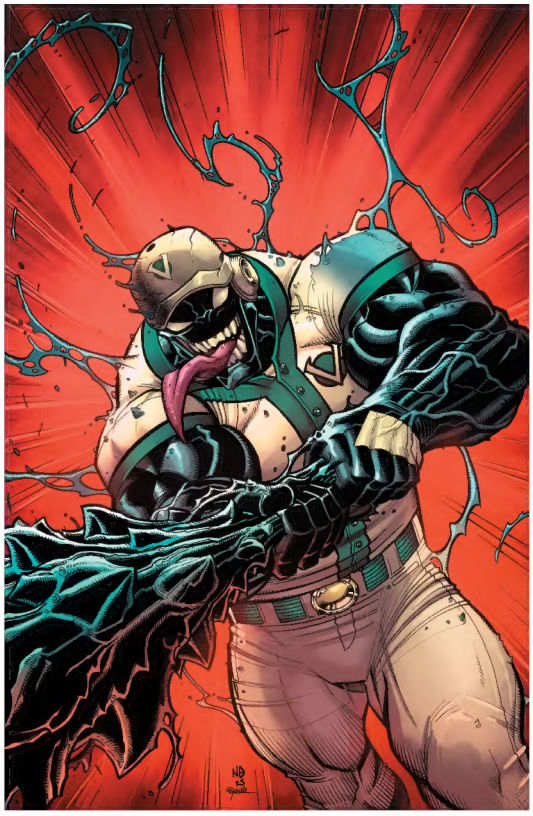
RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER & DAVE McCAIG
#3 THE OTHER VARIANT

TAKASHI OKAZAKI & TAMRA BONVILLAIN
#4 VARIANT

KEN LASHLEY & ROMULO FAJARDO JR.
#4 SYMBIOTE VARIANT

PEACH MOMOKO
#4 VARIANT

RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER & DAVE McCAIG
#4 THE OTHER VARIANT



NICK BRADSHAW & RACHELLE ROSENBERG
#5 VARIANT

SERGIO DÁVILA, SEAN PARSONS
& ERICK ARCINIEGA
#5 SYMBIOTE VARIANT

PEACH MOMOKO
#5 VARIANT

RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER & DAVE McCAIG
#5 THE OTHER VARIANT

"Extreme Venomverse *continues to innovate and excite with new takes on Venom.*"
– AIPT

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T+

MARVEL

Jack.T.Ripper

BLOODY MARVELOUS!